■ SUNDAY COMICS

FOUR PAGES OF FULL-COLOR COMICS INSIDE!

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Cabral named DSWD secretary; Reyes takes over from Defensor at DENR

■ ACROSS / A17

Ex-Sen. Ramon Revilla drives away farmers from disputed Cavite property

■ NEWS / A3

Patikul killers stayed around brazenly, villagers say

RP still open to mining, Palace tells investors

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SOUGHT TO ASsure investors that the Philippines was still open to new mining ventures and that their investments were safe in the wake of Palace efforts to placate the Catholic bishops who have launched a campaign to stop mining.

It clarified that the government's offer to

RP STILL/ A20

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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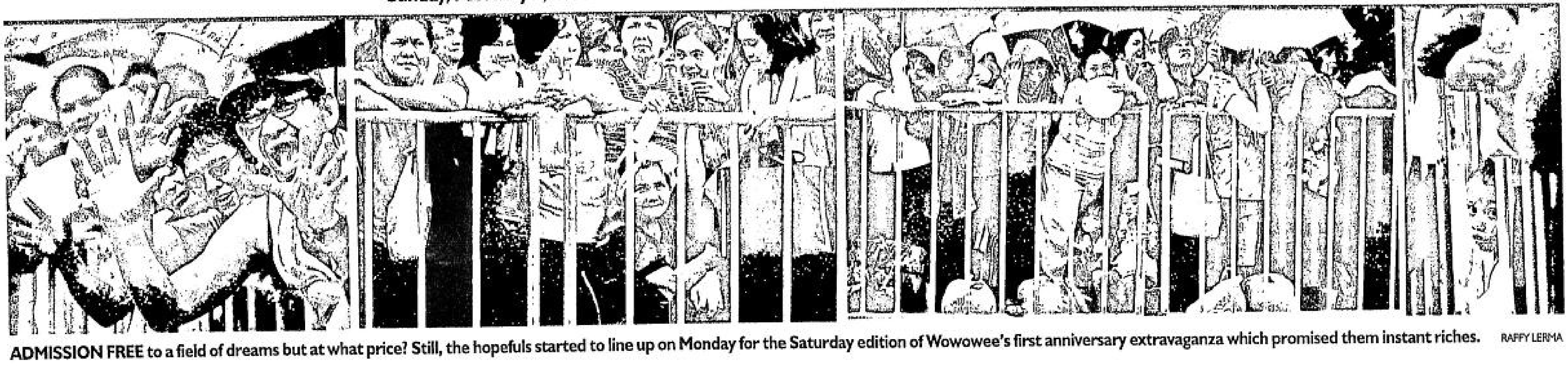
TV rivalry, politics cast aside in wake of tragedy

By Norman Bordadora

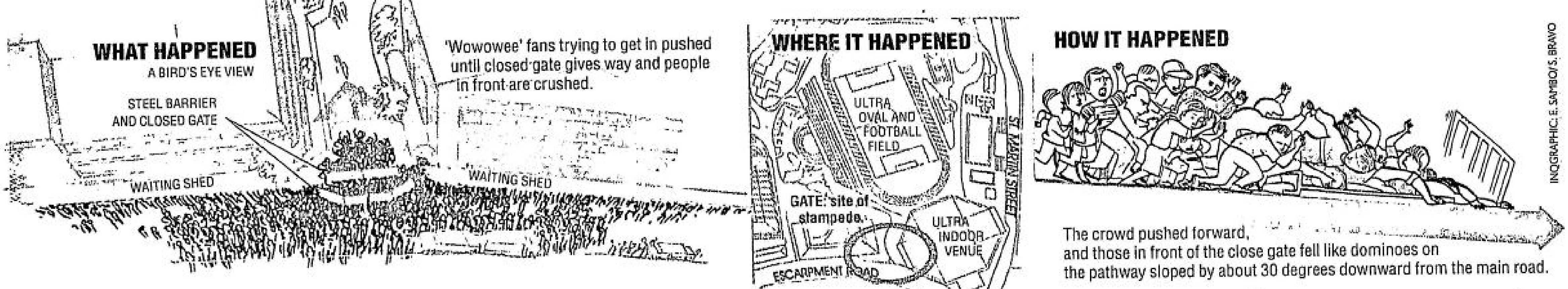
VIC SOTTO, HOST OF GMA 7'S "EAT BULAGA" called for a one-minute prayer for the stampede victims. And the entire cast and crew fell silent. The longest-running TV hit show stood still for its fiercest rival, one that has been trying to knock off "Bulaga" from its No. 1 noontime slot—"Wowowee" in the "other network."

TV RIVALRY/ A19



ADMISSION FREE to a field of dreams but at what price? Still, the hopefuls started to line up on Monday for the Saturday edition of Wowowee's first anniversary extravaganza which promised them instant riches. RAFFY LERMA

74 DREAMS CRUSHED



'Wowowee' fans trying to get in pushed until closed gate gives way and people in front are crushed.

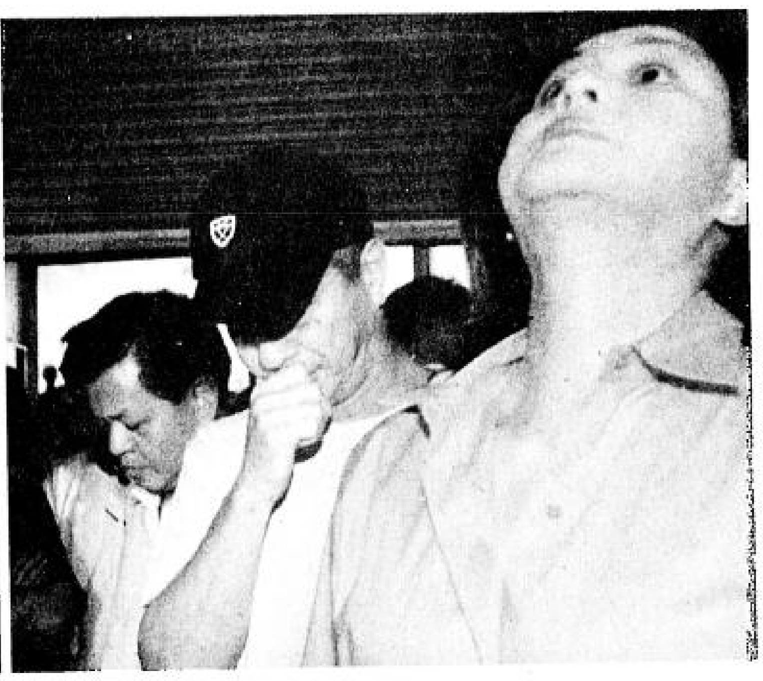
The crowd pushed forward, and those in front of the close gate fell like dominoes on the pathway sloped by about 30 degrees downward from the main road.

INQGRAPHIC: E. SAMBO/S. BRAVO

'Ultra tragedy reveals life is hard, real state of economy'

UNSPEAKABLE GRIEF for a son who lost his mother who lies lifeless with the rest, mostly elderly women, who had lined up for days for a chance at a better life for their families. RAFFY LERMA

COMEDIAN Willie Revillame is reduced to tears. EDWIN BACASMAS



COMING IN FROM THE COLD, Vice President Noli stands behind former colleagues Gabby Lopez and Charo Santos-Concio. JOAN BONDOC

By Volt Contreras, Edson Tandoc and Luige del Puerto

THEY CAME IN THE TENS OF THOUSANDS, SOME camping out for days, hoping fortune would favor the earliest to get in among them . All they wanted, each of them, was a stadium seat, a free raffle ticket, and a stroke of luck that could end a life of poverty.

Yesterday, the impatient buildup of dreams exploded into a mad, deadly rush.

Red Cross officials said 74 people who had come to watch the first anniversary presentation of the popular ABS-CBN noontime show "Wowowee" were crushed to death in an early morning stampede at the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City, a shocking spectacle many saw as a telling measure of the hard times.

About 500 others were injured, Red Cross officials said.

In a telegram to the Bishop of Pasig, the Vatican said: "The Pope asks Almighty God to grant solace to the injured and to those who are mourning the loss of their loved ones."

Cause-oriented groups expressed concern that the stampede may have been caused by extreme poverty and despair which they said were so prevalent among Filipinos that one of their main hopes for a better life was a TV show offering a quick windfall: It's not P51 to the dollar, they said, but 70 lives to the peso.

It was one of the deadliest, if not the deadliest, incident involving a stampede to occur in the country in years.

The victims were predominantly from the poorest parts of the metropolis, and nearby provinces, generally jobless and lured by the show's promise of instant millions.

Some came from as far as the Visayas.

74 DREAMS/ A10

Loud music drowned out cries for help

MUSIC WAS BLARING FROM LOUDSPEAKers as the huge crowd pushed at the steel gates of the Philsports Arena to take part in the anniversary celebration of "Wowowee."

From accounts, what happened was bizarrely simple: In the mad rush to gain entry to the arena—and thereby get a crack at the prizes up for grabs—people who had been waiting for days, pushed relentlessly until the gates gave way and the people in front were trampled to death.

"I was shouting, Help us, help us! The music was so loud. How could they hear us?" said Nenita Cabasan, 44, of SSS Village, Marikina City.

Cabasan said the loudspeakers kept on blasting away, so that the guards and other people in the crowd did not hear the cries of the injured, or just did not pay attention.

"I was lucky I survived," said Cabasan, who was among the many camped outside the arena since Wednesday. *(See first accounts on Page A4.)*

She said the crowd rushed in when the guards opened the gates a bit to distribute tickets. As a result, she said, those in front were crushed.

The massive surge left a human pileup "four bodies thick" at one of the gates facing Javier Street, according to accounts gathered by the INQUIRER from Philsports security guards.

LOUD/ A19

Wowowee: Entertainment, hope for the poor

By Nini Valera

A P2.5-MILLION HOUSE AND LOT package, P1 million in cash and a passenger jeep were to be the top prizes in what would have been the first-anniversary celebration yesterday of "Wowowee."

Conceived as a no-brainer noontime game show, "Wowowee" is famous for giving away as much as P2 million in cash daily. It is hosted by Willie Revillame and is aired over ABS-CBN.

The house and lot package was to be the grand prize in the "Pera o Bayong" segment, where 300 players would have taken part.

A "home partner" was to win the same prizes as the studio contestant winner through an electronic raffle system involving text messages sent to a designated cell phone number.

A minor raffle would have also given away P10,000 in cash each to a number of people in the audience.

A traditional part of the show was for overseas-based Filipinos in the audience to greet their families abroad.

These *balikbayan* would usually donate dollar bills, collected in a basket passed around during the show, to comprise the

WOWOWEE/ A20

Disaster waiting to happen: Celebrities to die for

By Michael L. Tan

COMMENTARY

LIKE SO MANY OTHER CELEBRITIES, Willie Revillame of "Wowowee" was being pushed through intense, unrelenting marketing, with nonstop promotions on television to billboards and mass events with free tickets—and all kinds of spin-off businesses such as celebrity magazines, cell phone ring tones and picture downloads.

Idols are all too easy to create. As with ancient religions, today's entertainment industry uses myths, legends, lots of graven images, and products claiming to carry the gods' essence.

Ancient idols were made to promise: "Worship me and I will grant your wishes." Today's idols, endorsing endless products, have a different pitch: "Buy my product, come see me, touch me, and you too can be me."

For years now, we've worried about terrorist attacks. Yesterday's disaster had no real bomb, yet the death toll was worse than some of the suicide bomb attacks in other countries.

I couldn't help thinking that the dead were human sacrifices on the altar of consumerism and latter-day idols.

How long will we allow the entertainment industry to use celebrities, with their manufactured aura, to dictate to us what to buy, how to live—and how to die?

Doubtless, heads will roll as authorities ferret out people to blame.

Perhaps no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo will announce that the

DISASTER/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region including Quezon and Aurora will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/02/05/06 SOURCE PAGASA

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2006

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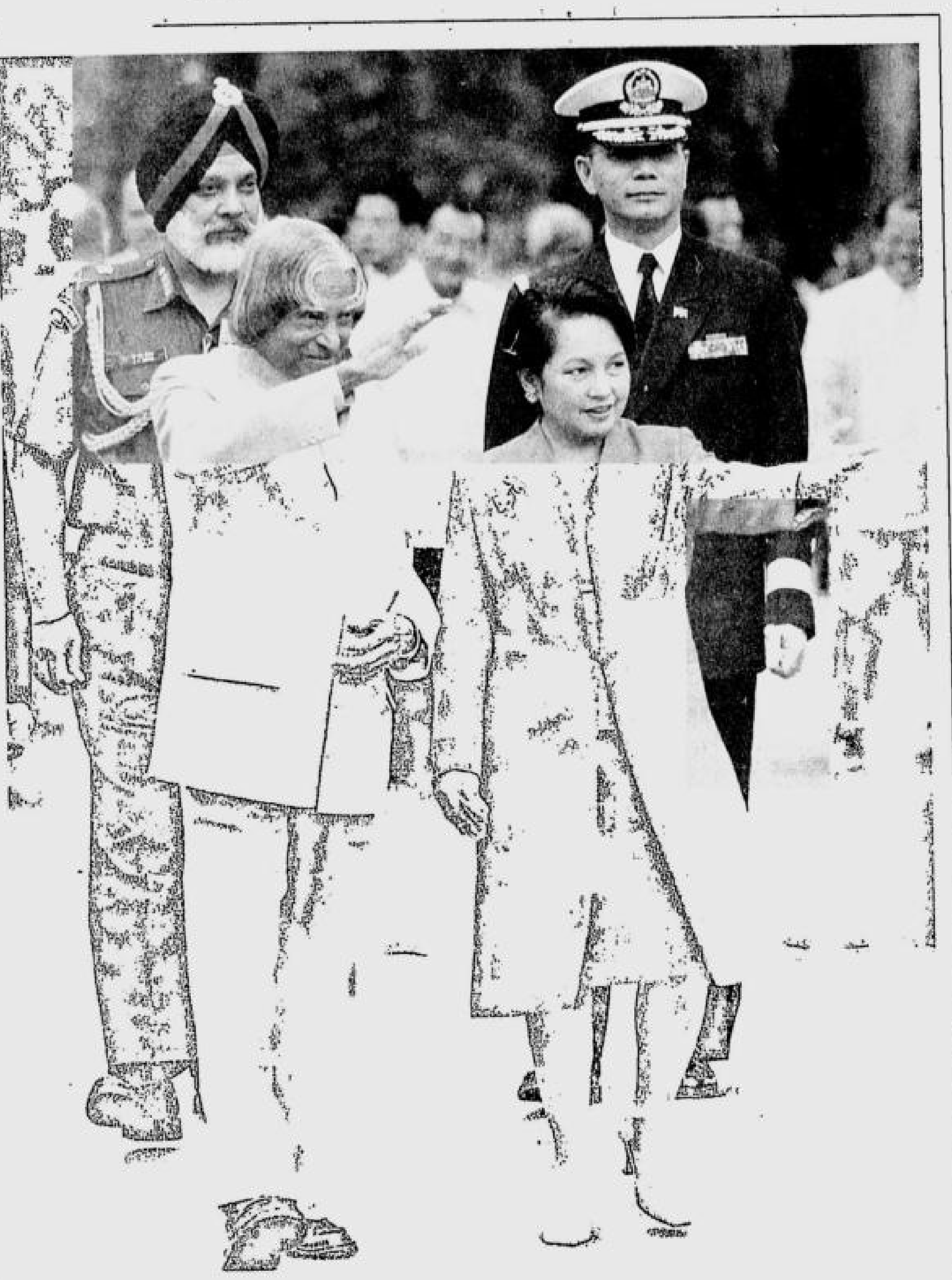
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Surprise: Reyes goes to DENR



PALACE VISITOR

President Macapagal-Arroyo shows Indian President Abdul Kalam around during yesterday's call on Malacañang. The Indian president is on a four-day state visit during which the two countries have pledged to step up cooperation in defense, tourism, agriculture and pharmaceuticals. LYN RILLON

GMA also names Cabral to DSWD

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG PULLED a major surprise in its latest batch of Cabinet appointees, transferring Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, a longtime ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Reyes' reluctance to give up the Department of Interior and Local Governments portfolio was said to be the reason for the delay in the Cabinet reshuffle.

A former Armed Forces chief whose withdrawal of support for deposed President Estrada in 2000 paved the way for Ms Arroyo's accession, Reyes was initially offered the much-coveted post of ambassador to the United States but turned it down reportedly because it did not fit in with his plan to run for senator in 2007.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, who announced the new appointments yesterday, confirmed Environment Secretary Michael Defensor's move to the Palace as the President's chief of staff.

New appointees

The other new appointees are Esperanza Cabral as social welfare secretary and Edgardo Pamintuan as chair of the Subic-Clark Area Development Council (SCAD), the agency that oversees the key assets of, and serves as an investment vehicle for, the economic zones created out of the former United States military bases in Central Luzon.

With Reyes out of the interior department, the speculation is that it would not be long before Malacañang puts Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Puno, the president of Ms Arroyo's Kampi party, back in the pivotal post that he held during the Estrada administration.

REYES

CABRAL

The President is also reportedly interested in recruiting another congressman, Rep. Rolando Andaya, into the Cabinet to replace Budget Secretary Romulo Neri who wants to return to the National Economic and Development Authority.

Neri was moved from the Neda into the budget department during the last major Cabinet reshuffle seven months ago, following the mass resignation of Cabinet secretaries, the so-called Hyatt 10, who called on the President to step down over the election cheating and wiretap scandals.

Since January, the DENR has been left in the care of an officer-in-charge while Defensor acted as the Palace's main troubleshooter.

'A perfect fit'

Defensor said another batch of appointments would be announced soon to fill up the vacant seats in the Cabinet.

He described the new appointees as "a perfect fit for an administration that is on its fifth year."

He said Reyes' long experience in law enforcement would give the DENR a tougher mind set, something that he said was needed in the department's campaign against illegal logging and mining transgressors.

Defensor said his new post was a reprise of his role as the President's campaign manager in the 2004 elections.

"I was asked to strengthen the Malacañang group," he said.

Cabral, the former director of the Philippine Heart Center, is one of the country's leading cardiologists and is the host of a medical advice show on state-owned RPN 9 television.

Pamintuan, a lawyer and former mayor of Angeles City in Pampanga, has parlayed his closeness to the President into several key government positions. He was the National Housing Authority general manager before being appointed to head Malacañang's Office of External Affairs.

Pamintuan said SCAD would be supervising all base conversion bodies created by Congress in 1992 through RA 7227.

'Greater focus, efforts'

"The President has tasked me to lead in synergizing the development and growth of Subic and Clark as major economic engines in the country. She wants greater focus and efforts on these," he said.

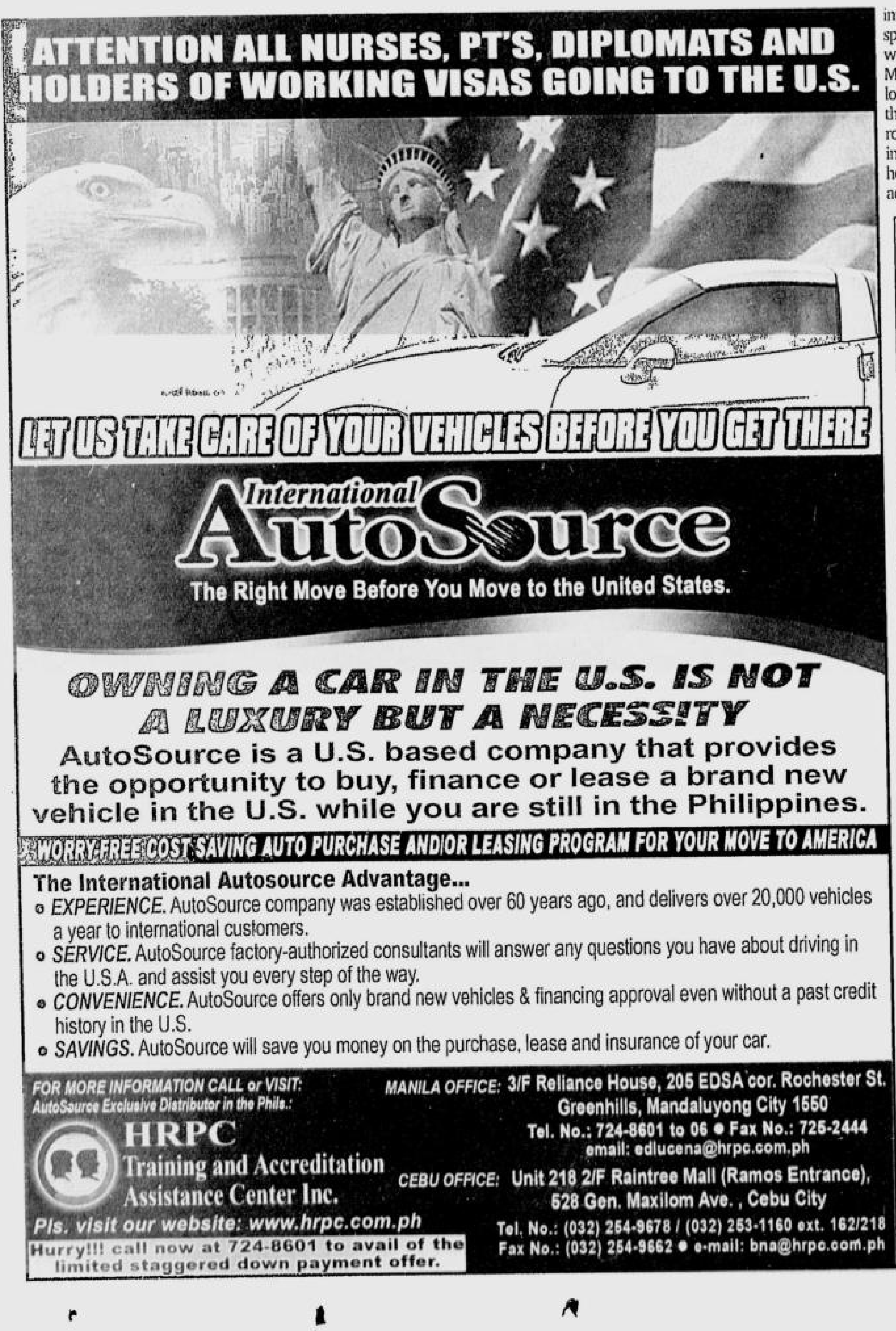
Ms Arroyo included the development of Subic in Bataan and Clark in Pampanga and Tarlac—which until 1991 hosted the largest military bases of the United States in the Asia-Pacific— in her 10-point agenda in 2004.

The government has converted the two bases into investment parks, tapping the airports and seaport developed by the Americans for economic activities.

Pamintuan takes over the post vacated by Francisco Licuanan III who resigned last August reportedly over Ms Arroyo's choice of appointees at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Pamintuan said the President wanted to turn Subic and Clark into the best logistics hub in Southeast Asia.

Antonio Ng, CDC president and chief executive officer, said Pamintuan's appointment was "highly positive for Central Luzon." *With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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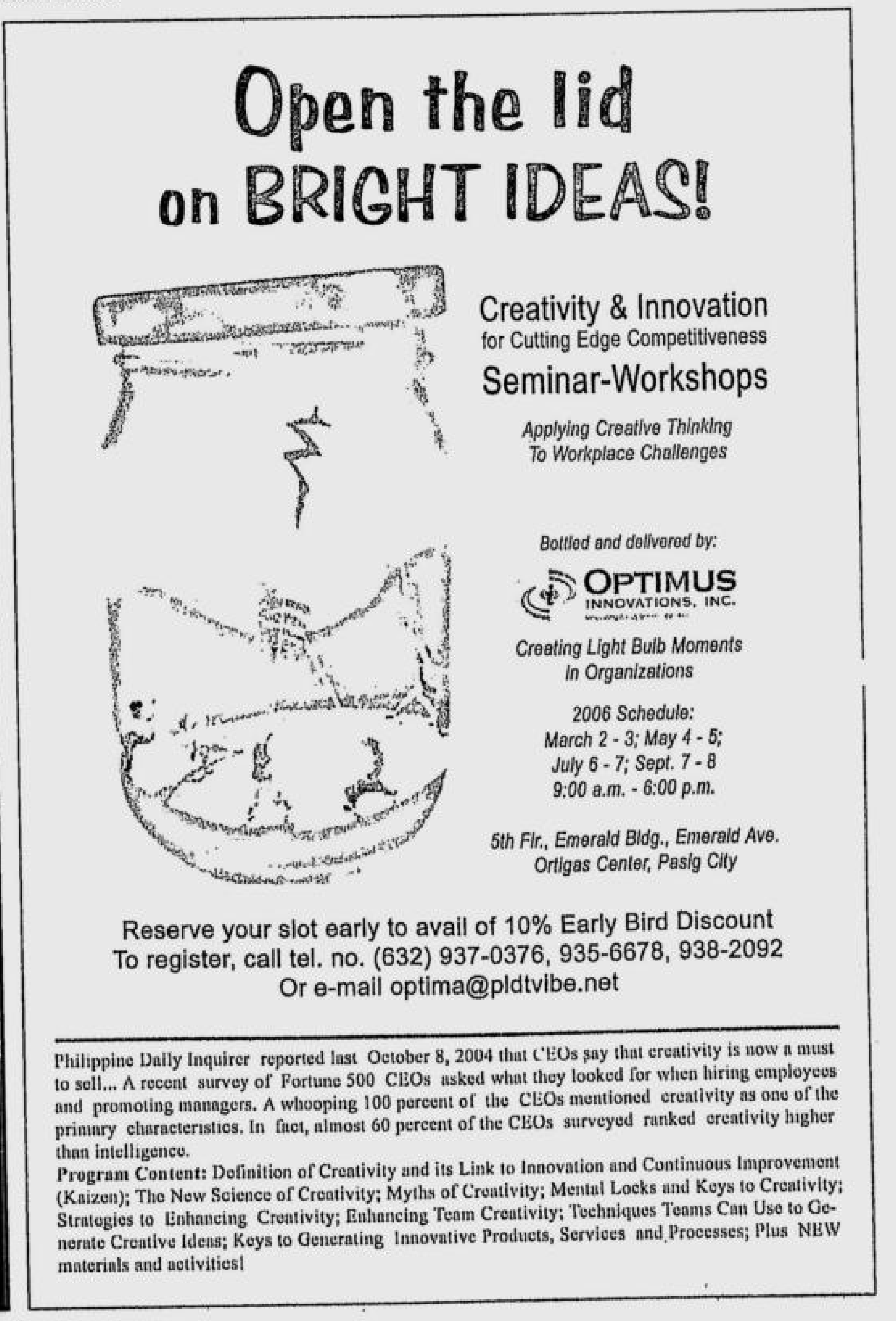

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PATIKUL, SULU MASSACRE

Killers stayed around brazenly, villagers say

PATIKUL, SULU—ABU SAYYAF gunmen believed responsible for the massacre of six people here early morning Friday roamed around brazenly and unmolested near a military detachment before and after the shooting, according to residents.

Jennifer Fontanilla, 22, made this statement yesterday, contradicting earlier claims by authorities that troops quickly responded to the bloody attack.

Fontanilla, whose father Aurelio, 50, was among those killed, said the suspects went to the massacre site through a road near a Marine detachment, which is about 200 meters away from their house.

She described the neighborhood in Barangay Liang, where the shooting occurred, as a close-knit community whose members lived in shanties in the middle of military checkpoints and a major Marine headquarters.

"One of them was in military uniform. There were about four others who waited standing at the area beside the corner of our house. I wasn't able to see their faces because it was dark," Fontanilla said.

The one in military uniform, she said, asked his father if there were Christians in the village. "After they asked that question, they left," Jennifer said.

She said the shooting started about 30 minutes later and that stray bullets pierced their hut.

Fernando Etrata Jr., a former soldier who lives in the neighborhood, said dogs were restive shortly before the massacre. "It was a sign that strangers were in the vicinity," he said.

He added that when he heard bursts of gunfire he peeped into small holes in his door. "I saw many armed men, more than 20. Some were in short pants, others were in denim pants. They kept on shooting."

Etrata said the shooting lasted for about seven minutes.

Etrata said he overheard one of the suspects speaking in Tausug. "Let's leave. They're all dead," he recalled the suspect as saying.

Backing up Fontanilla's claim, Etrata said the armed men fled toward sitio Buslak, about 150 meters away from a Marine detachment.

Col. Juancho Sabban, commander of the 3rd Marine brigade, admitted to the INQUIRER that Marines failed to respond during the actual attack because they were ordered to take a defensive position.

"We cannot immediately get out of the camp, as standard procedure requires that we don't proceed if we don't get the nature of the gunfire. With that volume of fire, we had to be more cautious," he said.

He said the Abu Sayyaf wanted to humiliate the Marines by attacking the village, which was practically part of the military camp.

"They planned this desperate attack because of our recent successful operations against them. The Abu Sayyaf Group has suffered major setbacks in recent months. That's why they are creating chaos, taunting the Marines, trying to humiliate us," he said.

Sabban said the first soldiers arrived in the area about15 minutes later and that some Marines went after the bandits but failed to catch up with them.

Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin said he was informed by residents that three persons riding on motorcycles cleared the massacre site of empty shells.

"I was informed they were Marines. We want explanations why they cleared the place when that should have been the job of the police," Amin said.

Sabban said he doubted the truth of the report because Marines were told not to touch anything. "Because it's not our job, it's a police matter," he said.

Anxious about their security in spite of the camps, some residents of Barangay Liang have decided to temporarily live in other areas.

Etrata said he told his wife to take the three children and stay with her parents.

Relatives buried yesterday massacre victims Surma Patenga and her eight-month-old daughter Melanie in Patikul poblacion according to Muslim rites. Surma had remained a Muslim even though her husband was a Christian.

The bodies of Aurelio Fontanilla, Pedro Casipong and his daughter Emma were brought to nearby Jolo, while the remains of Leonardo Patenga was brought to Barangay San Raymundo. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

No luxury cars for new CA chief

By Armand Dean N. Nocum

IS JUDICIAL DIGNITY ENHANCED BY THE kind of car a justice or a judge drives around in?

Newly appointed Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ruben T. Reyes believes it does not, so he has settled for a five-year-old van that is associated more with taxicabs instead of spending an allotment of P2.5 million on a luxury car and a van that an official of his stature is supposedly entitled to.

Instead of spending the P2.5 million on a Toyota Camry and a Starex van, Reyes said he decided to put the money into a kitty of more than P20 million needed to provide CA employees with "fringe benefits."

Thus, while his colleagues move around in flashy cars, the 67-year-old Reyes drives a plain-looking van that has seen better days. He asked the INQUIRER in a recent interview not to disclose the vehicle's make for security reasons.

"Whatever program the presiding justice has, if it will not be supported by the other justices and personnel, it will be difficult to succeed," Reyes said, explaining his sacrifice. "It's difficult to push through a program without the support of the rank and file."

He said that even Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban had asked him to trade in his car for a more expensive model, one truly in keeping with the position he was elevated to last December.

'Dignity of the office'

"It's not for you, but for the dignity of the office," Reyes recalled Panganiban telling him recently.

Although he has not closed the option of getting a more appropriate car in the future, for now Reyes said the needsof the CA rank and file were more important.

"It's common knowledge that the salary of justices is higher than the personnel, so we try to narrow the gap between the benefits enjoyed by the justices and the personnel," he said.

According to him, very few people know that the ordinary employees and court clerks are the most hardworking persons in government.

In the CA, he said, justices come out with up to 20 resolutions each day – some running more than 100 pages – that have to be photocopied and send to several parties involved in a case and filed.

On top of this, they also handle hundreds of motions and comments filed by lawyers.

"They are our unsung heroes. Most of them work on Saturdays – without pay – because weekdays are simply not enough to complete the workload. They only rest when going to the washroom," he added.

Fixed exchange rate for OFW $ proposed

By Michelle V. Remo

WHILE MALACAÑANG IS ECSTATIC OVER THE strong gains of the peso against the US dollar, millions of Filipinos who depend on the dollar remittances of their relatives working abroad are not amused.

Overseas Filipino workers and their families are complaining that the recent strengthening of the peso has drastically reduced the peso value of the dollar remittances.

To address their concerns, the government is being urged to peg the exchange rate at P56:$1 exclusively for remittances of OFWs or the so-called modern-day heroes.

Former Philippine Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Roy Señeres said OFWs and their families have been placed in a disadvantage by the peso's appreciation.

"The peso is appreciating to the disadvantage of the OFWS, about half of whom are lowly paid, like housemaids in the Middle East," Señeres said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Señeres, now founding chair of the OFW Family Club, said those serving as household helpers in other countries usually earn a monthly pay of only $150.

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Mostly elderly women crushed to death

By Jocelyn R. Uy, Norman Bordadora, Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Luige A. del Puerto and Dona Pazzibugan

THE DEADLY RUSH TO FORTUNE ends up for this man grieving for his wife.

JOAN BONDOC

THE CASUALTIES WERE MOSTLY women, and aged 50 and above. "They are the vulnerable ones," said a Philippine Red Cross worker at the site.

"She begged me to help her. But I couldn't do anything because people were stepping on me. I saw people stepping on her, too," Alberto Herrera, 39, recounted in Filipino how he saw his mother trampled to death.

Fifty-seven year old Arsenia Herrera was among scores of people who were crushed to death yesterday in a television game show stampede in Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City.

"*Hindi ko alam na mangyayari ito. Kung alam ko lang, hindi ko na siya sinamahan dito.* (I did not see this coming. If I had known, I would not have accompanied my mother here)," Herrera said in tears, as he watched over his mother's lifeless body.

Earlier, the two had shared a breakfast of hot noodles and bread—their last together—without an inkling of the tragedy that was to come.

Like thousands of hopeful others, the Herreras of Malibay, Pasay had camped outside the stadium since Wednesday, hoping to attend the live broadcast of "Wowowee," a popular game show on ABS-CBN.

"It was a first come, first served basis. We wanted to enter the gates first so we could have that ticket," Herrera said, adding that they had brought food and clothes to last them until the show proper.

His mother was looking forward to meeting the show's host Willie Revillame, in person, he said.

Take home some cash

"She really wanted to play the 'Pera o Bayong,' hoping to take home some cash," Herrera told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Herrera had lost his mother's grip when the crowd started to squeeze through the gate's small opening. They were still a few feet away from the entrance when the crowd pushed them to the ground.

"If the guards had opened the gates, none of this would have happened," he said.

His mother, who swept the streets of Pasay City for a living, had earlier seen the show's commercial on television, promising loads of cash and gift prizes.

"She said we should go and try our luck. We might be able to take home something," said Herrera, who drives a sidecar to help his mother.

Cell phone unattended

When Roderick Gozo, 17, found out about yesterday's stampede, he immediately called his mother Catalina, 46, on her cell phone. He knew she and three other friends had planned to go to the stadium.

"*Tinawagan ko siya sa cell phone niya pero hindi siya sumasagot* (I tried to call her on her cell phone but she wasn't answering)," Gozo said.

When he arrived at the stadium, his mother was already dead, stripped of her belongings. Gozo could not even find his mother's bag.

Melvin Salazar 17, and his mother, Rosalina, 42, from Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan also went to the stadium with hopes of a better life.

"*Baka sakali daw kami manalo ng pera,* (We had hoped to win some money)" Salazar told the INQUIRER.

His mother, who was suffering from high blood pressure, also died in the stampede.

He was holding his mother's hand when they were trampled.

"*Ang bilin niya sa akin huwag daw ako bumitaw sa kanya. Hawakan ko lang daw ang kamay niya* (She asked me not to let go. She told me to hold her hand ," he said.

He was still holding his mother's hand when she died, he said.

Dead sister

Housewife Esperanza Marasigan wailed in despair as she searched for her missing relatives.

"Help us, help us. I think my sister is dead," Marasigan cried.

"We were hoping to get a chance to win money, we never thought this would turn out to be a nightmare," she said.

Around her, relatives of some of the dead sobbed uncontrollably or were in hysterics.

As bodies were brought out of the stadium they were placed on a litter-strewn street outside and covered with plastic bags or newspapers. Some had their driver's license or other ID cards placed on their chests for quick identification before being taken to nearby hospitals.

Piles of discarded clothing, bags and shoes littered the scene.

Big brother

Marissa Graboso, 35, will forever be grateful to a man who saved her 7-year-old from being trampled.

He scooped up my son and passed him to others, who also carried him away from the crowd," Graboso told the INQUIRER.

FIREFIGHTERS carry another dead body from the Ultra premises.

RAFFY LERMA

Her son, Mark Joseph, lost his slippers and sustained bruises. But he is safe, unlike scores of others—including a 4-year-old girl—who perished in the stampede.

The man was tall, fat and was wearing a sleeveless shirt, Graboso said. She found her son, drenched in sweat, after the stampede.

The same man also helped the children of Vilma Catabang, 40.

"He was very kind. Before the stampede, he even bought bottled water for my children," Catabang said.

She said the man also held the hands of her daughter and son when the crowd went wild.

The man had lined up with them on Capt. Henry Javier Street in Pasig City the other night to attend the celebration scheduled yesterday noon, Catabang said.

Graboso said they had no idea persons, mostly elderly women, were dying in front of the queue when the crowd got wild about 6:45 a.m.

"They were lifting people whom we thought had just collapsed. But we did not take them seriously because some people pretended to faint just to get ahead of the line," Graboso added.

Broken bone, broken dream

Neildrin Catubig, 34, had staked out at the stadium for 24 hours, sustained by the thought that he would be among the first 100 people allowed to enter once the stadium gates were opened.

Now he considers himself even luckier to be alive, in spite of a broken bone.

"There was death. It was horrible," Catubig narrated in Filipino. "The crowd was just too big."

Catubig said his feet and legs were caught under the grill fence that the MMDA had put on Edsa to control commuters and vehicles.

"My body was numb from the waist down," he narrated. "I asked people to go easy but nobody heard me."

The security guards were not much help either.

"They tried to help but I suppose they also started getting rattled by the sheer number of the people trying to get in," Catubig said.

"I lay there [pinned to the ground] for almost an hour. I asked, 'Lord, why did this happen to us?'" he said.

Our child is dead

"How will I tell my husband that our child is dead? How? He knew I would be at Philsports, but this..." cried Myrna Book, 43, her right hand resting on the chest of her dead child.

Book, a housewife from Batasan, Quezon City, and her little girl were sitting on the pavement near the gate when people rushed in and collapsed on them.

Someone—a man—took the child away intending to carry her to safety, but the child either fell or ran back to her mother.

"Mommy, let us pray to God to save us," Book quoted her child as saying while they were pinned down. Her child died.

"*Kung alam ko lang na anak ko ang palit sa pagpunta ko dito, hindi na sana ako pumunta* (If I had known my child would be taken away from me, I never would have come)," she said.

Guards' fault

Gertrudes Mendoza-Grantham, 73, of Antipolo City lives a comfortable enough life from the allowances her children who live abroad send her.

But she went to Philsports anyway, with some of her children and grandchildren in tow. "I'm still wishing to get one million pesos from that game," she said.

"The sound was really so loud. I was shouting, people are dying here. But they didn't stop," she said. The stampede started around 6 a.m., when people started to get crushed. Grantham said nobody, not even the guards did anything for the next hour or so. By the time the ambulances arrived, it was already too late.

"I was shouting, 'Help, there are dead people here.' But no one paid attention to the dead. The dead were stepped on. The others pushed on, and the gate was half-open. It's the [fault of the] guard, that is his biggest sin before God," Grantham said.

Aerobics classmates

What was supposed to be a fun trip for a group of friends from Novaliches, Quezon City turned into tragedy. Nine elderly ladies who are classmates in aerobics went to Ultra early yesterday. Two of them were killed in the stampede, Edith Villanueva and Dionisia Bolano. Both are in their early 50s.

Estrelita Nichana, one of the surviving friends, blamed the guards for not opening the gates in time.

A total of 64 bodies were yesterday brought to Medical City, while 112 others were treated for various injuries.

The bodies, which were wrapped in white blankets, were laid out on the floor near the entrance to the morgue.

No relief

Salvador Garcia, 74, shook as he looked among the shrouded bodies for his wife Virginia, 67.

He said he and his wife have not eaten anything since they arrived at Philsports on Friday at 4 p.m. The elderly couple came from Bagong Bayan in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

"It was worse than being punished, because we couldn't eat, we couldn't relieve ourselves. We stayed in the line. We were crushed," he said. *With Nancy Carvajal and AFP*

Disaster waiting to happen: Celebrities to die for

From page A1

problem was faulty crowd control, maybe even lapses in the management of the Ultra stadium.

But this was a disaster waiting to happen. It could have been another celebrity event where the mad rush was not for tickets but for the celebrity. We forget there have been other incidents in the past, of fans dying in rock concerts as they pushed and shoved to get a better view of their idols. And we've failed to heed those warning signs.

Certainly, fanaticism over celebrities is found throughout the world. But as far as I know, never has there been an incident like yesterday's tragedy.

It gives new meaning to the way we sometimes describe the feelings fans have for celebrities: to die for.

Modern idolatry

Sociologists point out that Americans are much more celebrity-crazed than many other nationalities, and that maybe this is because they do not have royalty.

I have Thai friends who suggest that maybe we Filipinos also need royalty, but then I've seen Thais go into mindless frenzy too with their celebrities, despite their having a king and queen, and princes and princesses.

No, it's not royalty we crave. We have simply developed a more extreme form of modern idolatry, for reasons that are important to dissect.

Cinema, remember, is only a bit more than a century old, but it is a powerful medium. Movie stars project our collective angst, aspirations, triumphs—and they do this on the giant silver screen, literally larger than life.

With television, our exposure to these new gods became a daily activity, for hours on end.

Hunger for heroes

It's not surprising that the United States elected an actor as President as early as 1981, and that we followed suit in 1998, only to throw him out of Malacañang in 2001.

We would have moved on in 2004 to still another actor, who, if the allegations of poll fraud are true, probably did win the presidential election.

It's fairly easy to understand the phenomenon of Ronald Reagan, Joseph Estrada and Fernando Poe Jr. They were all action stars, projected in the movies as swashbuckling defenders of justice.

The fact that we wanted another actor as President shortly after deposing one tells us how badly we need heroes.

We saw that in the recent outbursts of national jubilation over boxer Manny Pacquiao and Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman.

What is so dismaying is that so many of our celebrities are of such dubious talent. But then talent is inconsequential—celebrities are celebrities because they entertain.

Desperate times

And if our standards for entertainment seem to have plunged to such low depths, it's because we live in desperate times.

I sometimes suspect we laugh so easily because there's so little left in life to be happy, so that anything, anyone, can become entertaining.

Look, too, at who were out there at the Ultra yesterday. They were mostly poor, mostly jobless.

If you can't feed them, keep them happy with lots of free tickets to circuses and comedians.

Never mind the long queue. That's part, too, of the festivities, along with the vendors milling around.

And yes, there will always be jokers and jesters, like the one who set off the bomb scare.

I've been dodging the broadcasting networks asking for interviews because I prefer that they answer the questions they would have posed to me.

Why such extremes in our celebrity craze?

Malacañang warned vs fertilizer scam cover-up

By Philip C. Tubeza

SENATORS YESTERDAY WARNED MALAcañang against preventing officials linked to the controversial P728-million fertilizer fund scam from testifying before a Senate inquiry, saying any cover-up would be futile at this point.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said the Palace should revoke Executive Order 464 which bars officials of the executive branch from appearing before the Senate investigation.

"In the light of the revelations of blatant and massive corruption in (the fertilizer) program, we are calling on Malacañang to either revoke or suspend the implementation of Executive Order 464 so that these public officials can explain their participation in the fertilizer fund scam," Drilon and Magsaysay said in a joint statement.

The two senators noted that former Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary and now Presidential Assistant for Job Generation Arthur Yap, former DA Assistant Secretary and now Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Vice President Ibarra Poliquit and incumbent DA Undersecretary Belinda Gonzales have invoked EO 464 as their reason for refusing to testify before the Senate inquiry.

Refuge under EO 464

"By allowing these officials refuge under EO 464, Malacañang cannot escape the public perception that it is actively involved in a futile cover-up attempt," they said.

These officials, Drilon and Magsaysay added, were "directly involved" in the administration of the fertilizer fund which the opposition claimed was diverted to ensure the victory of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May 2004 elections.

Former DA Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, a close associate of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, was the alleged chief architect of the fertilizer fund program. Bolante had continuously snubbed the Senate hearings.

Drilon and Magsaysay asked President Arroyo to give the Senate committee "full and unlimited access" to all DA and the Department of Budget and Management records on the fertilizer project.

The Commission on Audit (COA) had confirmed that the fertilizer used in the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) program was overpriced by at least P127 million.

COA records showed that more than 100 House of Representatives members, 53 governors and 26 town mayors received between P3 million and P10 million each in fertilizer funds from the DA shortly before the May 2004 elections.

Come clean

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday that congressmen linked to the fund scam should come clean instead of resorting to squid tactics to "hide their role" in the scam.

Pimentel dared the public officials to disprove the testimony by witness Jose Barredo Jr. that they received commissions of not less than 30 percent and that the purchased fertilizer supplies were grossly overpriced.

Barredo said he served as a "broker" between the supplier of the liquid fertilizer, Fesham Philippines, Inc. and the congressmen and local officials.

On Friday, Drilon challenged the Office of the Ombudsman to initiate its own investigation and file graft charges against DA and local government officials involved in the fertilizer scam.

Occupancy of hotels up 5% in 2005

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM YESTERday said that the overall average occupancy rate of hotels in Metro Manila last year rose to 71.81 percent, an increase of 5.09 percent from the previous level in 2004.

Assistant secretary for planning and tourism promotion Eduardo Jarque Jr. attributed the increase to the holding of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games and more seminars and conventions in the country, as well as the rise in the number of walk-in visitors and independent travelers.

For January-November 2005, there were less hotels but more rooms and more guests opting to stay shorter than in the same period in 2004, Jarque said in his report to DOT Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

De luxe hotels recorded the highest occupancy of 73.83 percent while first class hotels followed at 69.85 percent. The third placer, hotels classified as standard, posted only 68.53 percent but guests stayed there longer than in other types of hotels.

The overall average length of stay in both accredited and non-accredited hotels in the metropolis was 2.58 nights compared to 2.72 nights in 2004. The average of stay for the accredited only was posted at 2.53 nights while the non-accredited was 2.95.

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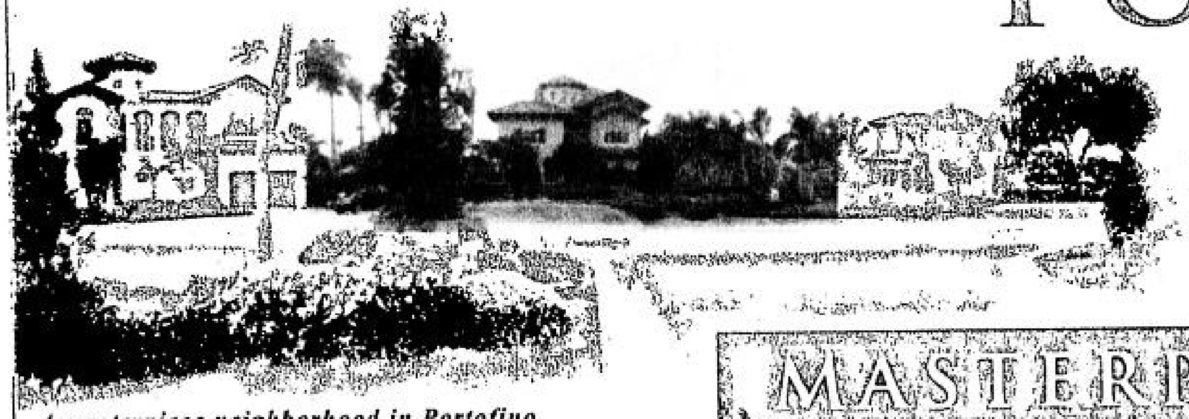

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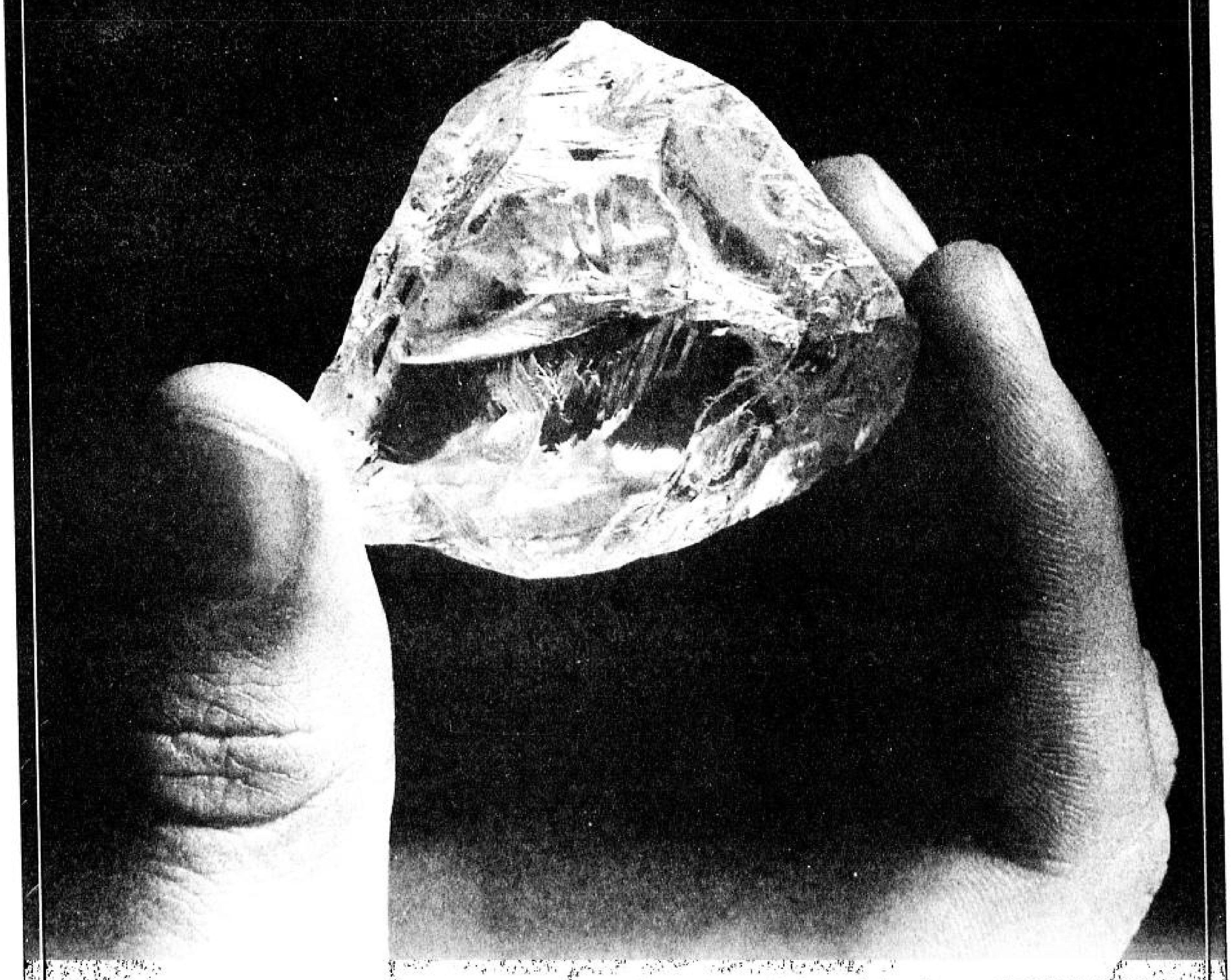

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Opposition has no viable alternative–bishops

By Jerome Aning

THE COUNTRY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS believe an Edsa-type People Power movement can not be repeated because the opposition is not only divided but has failed to provide an acceptable alternative to solve the country's political crisis, the leader of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said yesterday.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo told members of the Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan, a Jesuit-led organization of priests, seminarians and lay people engaged in religious and social ministry, that conditions obtaining in the country today were different from those during the Edsa 1 and Edsa 2 People Power uprisings which were "peaceful, nonviolent and successful."

"There seems to be an absence of a credible alternative or rallying point that would unite the divided opposition," he said. "That was what the bishops seemed to have been looking for: that the opposition offer a credible, viable alternative through a process that would be peaceful, nonviolent and with hope of success."

Sitting on the laurels

Lagdameo, who is the archbishop of Jaro in Iloilo, lamented, however, that after Edsa 1 and Edsa 2, both the Church and State appeared to have "sat on the laurels of success."

"There was very little or no follow up to institute renewal of public life and public service," he said.

Lagdameo devoted much of his talk on how the CBCP came up with the two pastoral statements it issued in the wake of the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal. He said that despite the differences between the July 10, 2005 and Jan. 29, 2006 statements, "both were expressions of the bishops' communion and collegiality."

"In both, the bishops spoke their minds. Like the Twelve Apostles, they shared their diversities, distinctions and differences, they argued their points passionately like Peter and Paul; but in the midst of all this, at the end of the day they would go back to the roots of their identity as bishops," he explained.

The CBCP's July 10, 2005 statement, titled "Restoring Trust: A Plea for Moral Values in Philippines Politics," was believed to have saved Mrs. Arroyo as she faced mounting calls to resign at the height of the scandal.

Centerpiece

The centerpiece of the statement was: "In a spirit of humility and truth, we declare our prayerfully discerned collective decision that we do not demand her resignation. Yet neither do we encourage her simply to dismiss such a call from others."

Lagdameo said the second part of the declaration "seemed to have been forgotten or ignored."

The July statement, he explained, rejected measures that were counter-constitutional or unconstitutional, such as juntas and revolutionary councils because of questions like: Will it not produce new injustices? How protracted will be the interregnum? Will it not result into a civil war?

"Admittedly the July statement contained the desideratum for restoring moral values, but it did not elaborate the ways and means of renewing our political life."

Last January's statement came about when the bishops, after evaluating the response of the government and sentiments of the people since July, felt that there was a need to elaborate on the "plea for the moral values in Philippine Politics."

Lagdameo recounted that the preparations for the statement began Jan. 25 with a dialogue with the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines and the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines.

Morato likens CBCP to Spanish-era friars

By Jerry E. Esplanada

"A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF HISTORY REPEATing itself" is how Manuel "Manoling" Morato describes the latest pastoral letter issued by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Morato, who is director of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes and a staunch defender of President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday that the bishops' letter "brought to mind what the Spanish *frailes* were doing during the time of Jose Rizal."

"They not only ran the Church but the government as well. They intruded in matters of the State that fouled up Las Islas Filipinas. The natives ended up hating them," Morato said in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER.

"Sadly, the bishops speak on issues they are not really competent on. Worse, the same issues are outside the purview of their calling. They may express their opinion, but not in a dictating manner," he said.

Assailing what he described as the CBCP's "misplaced priorities," Morato said the bishops "should first clean their own ranks."

"To this day, the truth about Bishop (Teodoro) Bacani has not been settled as to whether or not he indeed molested his secretary (three years ago). Is it because he is one of them that the CBCP refuses to settle the issue? And how about the other bishop who impregnated a woman and bore two children in Antipolo City?"

Morato said he "won't mind if the CBCP would speak out on the soon-to-be-released Hollywood film "Da Vinci Code," which is a distortion on the life of Christ. "If indeed the bishops are after the truth, they should have been among the first to speak out in defense of our Lord whose Divine Being is maligned in Dan Brown's best-selling book of the same title."

"In public gatherings they hold under the guise of prayer rallies, we see them with the non-believers, atheists, grafters in government then and now and those who are out to get a stranglehold on government," he said.

On the CBCP position that any amendment to the Constitution be done by a constitutional convention, Morato said: "Aside from the tremendous cost of holding one and the delay we can suffer, what kind of delegates can we elect in this country? Over 400 of them. We are playing with fire. There is the danger of electing drug lords, 'jueteng' lords and other criminal elements."

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3. Which of the following is the most important ingredient of a TV commercial? (3 points)

   ☐ an attractive celebrity ☐ a memorable jingle ☐ a strong idea ☐ bagoong

4. a) Come up with an amazing new invention. (4 points)

   b) Advertise it. (4 points)

5. Persuade Angelina Jolie to drop Brad Pitt for the writer of this exam.* (7 points)

*The writer of this exam.

6. Design a logo for Loneliness. (5 points)

7. Think of a campaign to make smoke-belching buses clean up their act. (6 points)

8. What's your favorite commercial and why? (0 points, we're just curious)

9. You're 50 km from home with no transport, no phone and no money. You've injured both legs. And it's against your religion to hitchhike. Or beg. How do you get back in one piece? (4 points)

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74 dreams crushed

From page A1

The victims included the elderly, pregnant women, toddlers, entire families or neighborhoods who since Monday had taken shelter in jeepneys or slept on mattresses and newspapers in the open street leading to the gates of the Arena.

Many of the dead were women crushed against a closed steel gate at the bottom of a slope or trampled underfoot. At least one child was killed, hospital officials said.

It was not the first stampede to occur at the Arena.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a thorough probe and the "submission of results within 72 hours," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye said Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza had ordered the National Telecommunications Commission to look into any "possible culpability" of ABS-CBN (owned and managed by the Lopez family).

In a text message later, Bunye said that Local Government Undersecretary Marius Corpus, chair of a fact-finding team, had subpoenaed ABS-CBN executive Charo Santos-Concio, Wowowee host Willie Revillame, the head of the affair's organizing committee and the chief of the security of the Ultra event to appear before the DILG at 1 p.m. today.

Show cancelled

ABS-CBN cancelled the anniversary celebration of one of its most-watched TV shows, which has sparked a ratings battle with other noon shows, particularly "Eat Bulaga."

About 50,000 people were waiting to get inside the stadium when the mayhem erupted, Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio said, according to the Associated Press.

Casualty reports were conflicting.

The Eastern Police District listed 79 dead and 328 injured as of 7:30 p.m. But Philippine Red Cross chairman Sen. Richard Gordon said the official Red Cross count was 74 dead, including one person who died of injuries last night at the Medical City.

Vice President Noli de Castro also initially reported 79 killed but later said he was told by health department authorities there had been a double-counting of names.

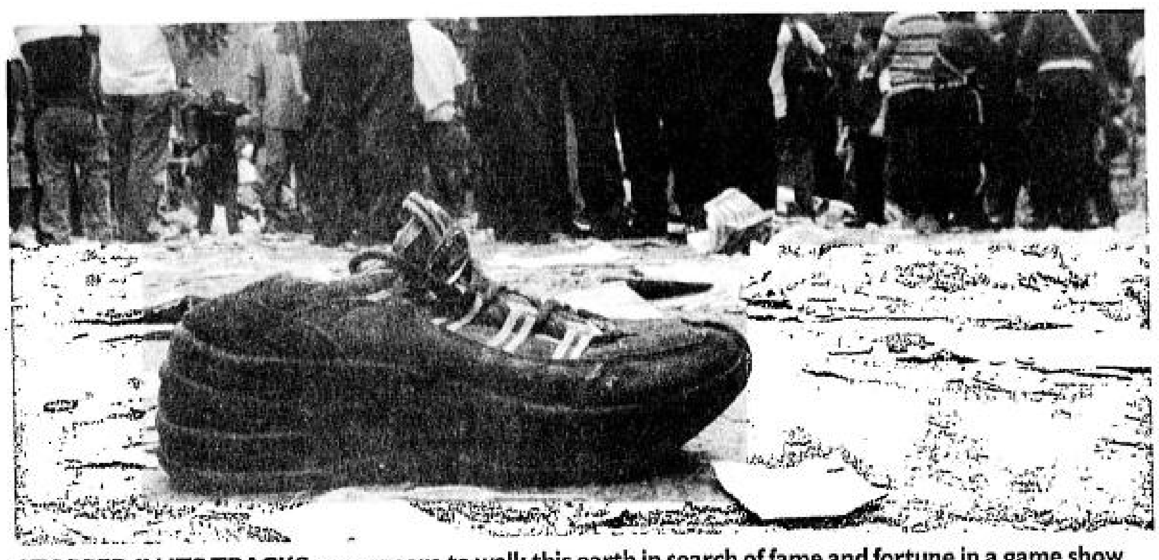
ABS-CBN officials told reporters their figure was 70 dead but its website, at 6:25 p.m., reported 79 killed.

The deaths occurred in a fairly small area of a passageway leading into the football field, suggesting the victims were trapped in a spot where they had nowhere else to go. The spot where they died bore no bloodstains.

Guard Juner Empelina recalled seeing entire rows of bodies falling over and three more layers of bodies piling up on top of them.

Six hours after the stampede, some of the injured were still checking into hospitals.

Eusebio said the melee erupted as the crowd pushed and surged toward the gates, pinning and trampling those in front (*See related story on Page A1*).



STOPPED IN ITS TRACKS, nevermore to walk this earth in search of fame and fortune in a game show called Wowwowee.

JOAN BONDOC

"The gates were being partially opened then shut," said Myrna Britania, 42, who had spent all night in line and was one of the injured. "People at the back of the line were pushing not knowing there were already people dead lying on the ground in front."

Eusebio and police denied reports that the stampede was caused by somebody shouting "Bomb! bomb!"

Several hours after the incident, tearful survivors were still looking for missing parents, children or relatives.

Half-eaten food

The once-swarming street outside the stadium was strewn with slippers and shoes, bags, umbrellas, articles of clothing, and half-eaten food.

Oddly, though, the day's tragedy seemed to reveal something bizarre in the Filipino psyche: Instead of going home, thousands of Wowowee fans who made it to the stadium before the stampede decided to stay put, holding on to their tickets and their seats, still hoping the show would go on.

By 1:30 p.m., comic host Revillame, reduced to a sobbing, bowed figure, climbed the stage and apologized to the galleries and those watching from their homes.

"Nobody wanted this to happen. I hope you understand that today's show is being cancelled," he said in Filipino. "Let's pray for those who died or were hurt this morning."

Noli's appeal

His show, he said, was for "Filipinos who think they have lost all hope."

The audience cheered him on, some shouting "It's not your fault, Willie!"

From backstage, De Castro, who was once ABS-CBN's biggest media celebrity, joined Revillame to appeal for calm and understanding.

"It's not proper that we continue having fun here while there are 79 people dead and more than 200 others injured in hospitals right now," De Castro said.

De Castro led the crowd in a minute of silence for the victims.

Security lapse?

"There appears to be a lapse in security," Mayor Eusebio told the INQUIRER. "The management got a permit from the City Hall, but they should have also coordinated with us for the security measures, especially with a crowd this big."

Most of those killed were brought to the Medical City before they were transferred to the Arlington Funeral Homes in Pasig City.

"We did not expect this would happen. We just want to make people happy every day. We hope people will understand that we just wanted to help," Revillame said in a press conference at the Arena.

Outside, other hosts of the programs hugged one another and broke into tears. Soon, ABS-CBN officials, including its chair and owner Gabby Lopez, arrived.

'We're devastated'

"It's insensitive to continue the show," said ABS-CBN's Concio. "We're all devastated."

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines offered prayers and condolences.

"Our hearts bleed in sorrow for the victims who, coming from the poorest of the poor, had no other intention but to be entertained and probably get some prizes given out by the show," CBCP President and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said.

President in black

Ms Arroyo formed a five-man team to look into the tragedy.

De Castro said the team would be composed of representatives from the DILG, the local government of Pasig, the Department of Health, the Office of Civil Defense, and the National Capital Region Police Office.

The team will find out what really happened, who was responsible, and recommend measures to prevent a repeat of the tragedy.

The President wore a black blouse when she left Malacañang at noon to visit the injured being treated at the Rizal Medical Hospital. She was seen on TV kneeling down in front of a middle-aged woman who had suffered a leg injury.

Caused by poverty

"The Ultra stampede is the real state of the economy. It's not P51 to the dollar. It's 70 lives to the peso," said Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza.

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said: "The real tragedy is the poverty that pushes people to pin their hopes in game shows. That is what is saddening."

Yesterday's incident was not the first time fans had stampeded to try and watch an ABS-CBN show.

In Cebu last year, chairs and pieces of metal railings flew as zealous spectators surged toward the stage during a mall show of the network. No one was hurt among the spectators but some the stars suffered bruises.

Network officials said their shows in the provinces were peaceful.

In 2003, eight people were injured when crowds jostled their way into the Philsports football field to watch Taiwanese celebrities Vaness Wu, Ken Zhu and Barbie Xu.

In September 2005, four young men were trampled to death in a stampede during a rock concert at the Amoranto Stadium in Quezon City. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Cynthia D. Balana, Norman Bordadora, Tina Santos*

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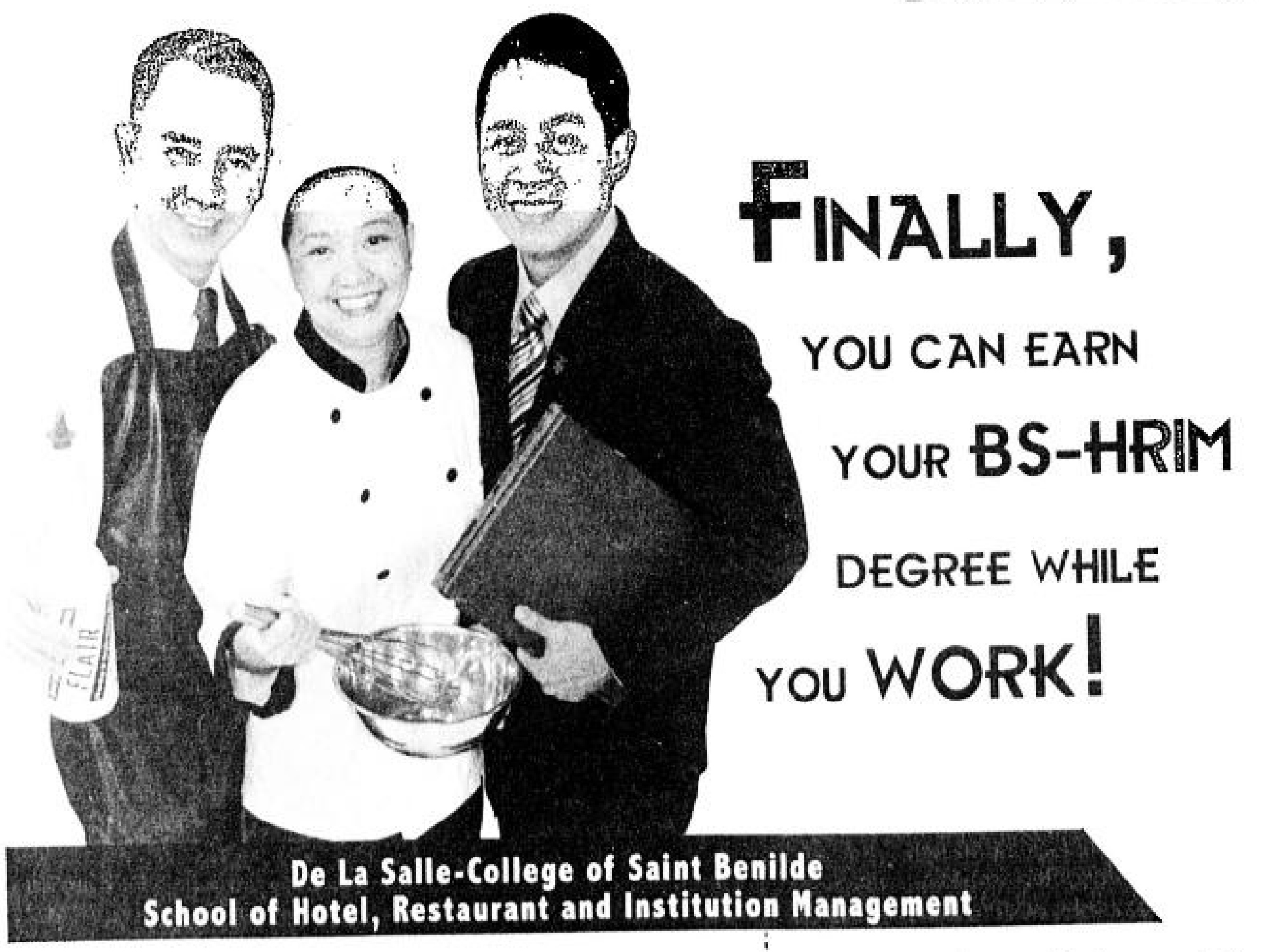

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Ferry ablaze for hours before it sank

AN EGYPTIAN woman cries at the entrance of the port of Safaga Feb. 4 as people wait for news of survivors from the sunken ferry. REUTERS

SAFAGA, EGYPT—RESCUE BOATS HAVE PICKED UP 435 SURvivors from the Egyptian ferry that sank in the Red Sea after a fire on board, police in this port said Saturday. Most of the ship's 1,400 passengers and crew are feared lost.

Investigators were still working to determine the fire's connection to the sinking, the minister, Mohammed Lutfy Mansour, told reporters. He described the fire as "small" and said there was no explosion on the vessel, which went down before dawn on Friday.

Many said the fire began early in the trip—between 90 minutes or 2 1/1 hours after departure according to various accounts—but the ship kept going and the fire burned for hours. Their accounts varied on the location of the fire, with some mentioning a storeroom or engine room.

"They decided to keep going. It's negligence," one survivor, Nabil Zikry, said before he was moved along by police, who tried to keep the survivors from talking to journalists.

"It was like the Titanic on fire," another one shouted.

Ahmed Elew, an Egyptian in his 20s, said he went to the ship's crew to report the fire and they told him to help with the water hoses to put it out. At one point there was an explosion, he said.

When the ship began sinking, Elew said he jumped into the water and swam for several hours. He said he saw one lifeboat overturn because it was overloaded with people. He eventually got into another lifeboat. "Around me people were dying and sinking," he said.

Several survivors shouted to journalists their anger over slow rescue efforts. "They left us in the water for 24 hours. A helicopter came above us and circled, we would signal and they ignored us," one man shouted. "Our lives are the cheapest in the world," another said.

A spokesperson for President Hosni Mubarak said the ferry did not have enough lifeboats, and questions were raised about the safety of the 35-year-old, refitted ship that was weighed down with 220 cars as well as the passengers.

"It's a roll-on, roll-off ferry, and there is big question mark over the stability of this kind of ship," said David Osler of the London shipping paper Lloyds List. "It would only take a bit of water to get on board this ship and it would be all over … The percentage of this type of ferry involved in this type of disaster is huge."

Weather may also have been a factor. There were high winds and a sandstorm overnight on Saudi Arabia's west coast. *AP*

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Embattled Thai PM says he'll quit if king asks

BANGKOK—THAI PRIME MINISTER THAKSIN Shinawatra said he would step down if the king asked him to, as he sought to defuse claims of corruption from rivals who plan to demand his resignation at a rally Saturday.

He accused his leading critic, media mogul Sondhi Limthongkul, of seeking his resignation as revenge over a business deal gone sour.

"A majority of the people want me to continue working. Only the king can ask me to resign. If he whispered to me, 'Thaksin you can quit now,' I would prostrate myself at his feet and step down immediately," Thaksin said in his weekly radio address.

"I will not surrender otherwise," he said in an impassioned speech.

Thaksin also gave a detailed defense of his family's controversial sale of Shin Corp., the telecom giant that he founded, seeking to soothe a public outcry over the $1.9-billion deal with Singapore's state-owned investment firm Temasek.

Protesters led by Sondhi want Thaksin to resign over corruption allegations—most recently over the Shin Corp. deal, which avoided a 30-percent capital gains tax and prompted regulators to investigate possible wrongdoing.

The Shin Corp. controversy has emboldened Thaksin's critics and rattled his government, with the culture minister resigning Friday over concern about "ethics in government."

Sondhi plans to petition Thailand's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej to step in, in hopes that a royal statement could pressure the premier to resign or call new elections.

The king has no official power to sack the prime minister, but he wields great influence over Thai society.

Thaksin accused Sondhi of seeking revenge over a failed business venture, in which Sondhi had invested heavily in a new television station that was blocked by regulatory hurdles.

"He wanted to get into the television business," but regulators blocked the deal, Thaksin said. "Then he accused me of not protecting him. But I have to take responsibility and balance my work, which involves every issue that affects the entire country," he added.

The premier also vowed not to mobilize his supporters in a counterprotest, saying he wanted the event to unfold peacefully. *AFP*

2 girls kidnapped 6 years ago found

LILLINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA—TWO girls abducted more than six years ago were reunited with their father this week after they were found during a traffic stop, the FBI said.

Authorities have said the girls, ages 6 and 8 at the time of the abduction, were picked up by their mother, Joyce Linda Murray Steyne, and her brother, Stephen Kirk Murray, on Dec. 17, 1999, from their father's home.

Despite a court order, the girls were not returned, authorities said. A 16-year-old son also taken from the home was later found abandoned at a hotel.

The girls, whom the FBI on Friday did not identify by name, were found in a car during a traffic stop Thursday in Lillington when a law enforcement officer became suspicious and identified Steyne.

The FBI said Steyne, 45, is charged with removal of minor children in North Carolina in violation of a custody order and an unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. Authorities were still searching for Murray, the FBI said. *AP*

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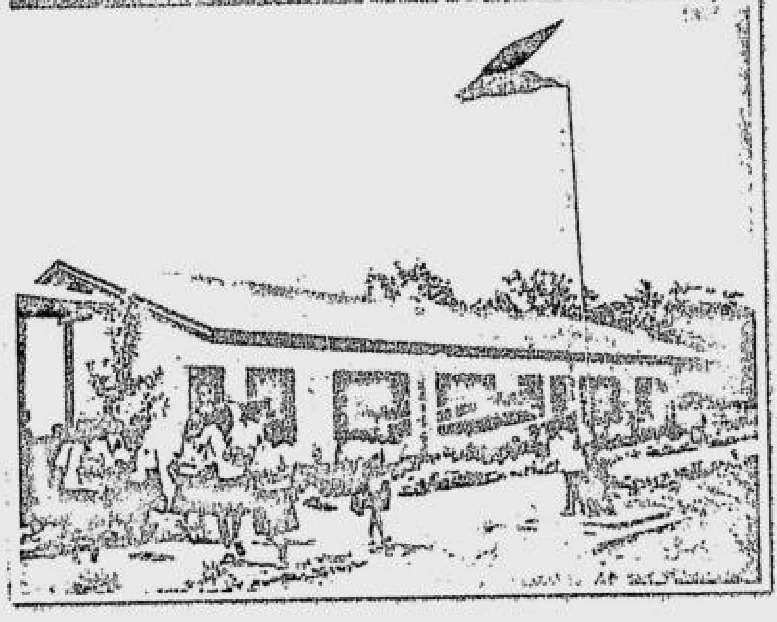

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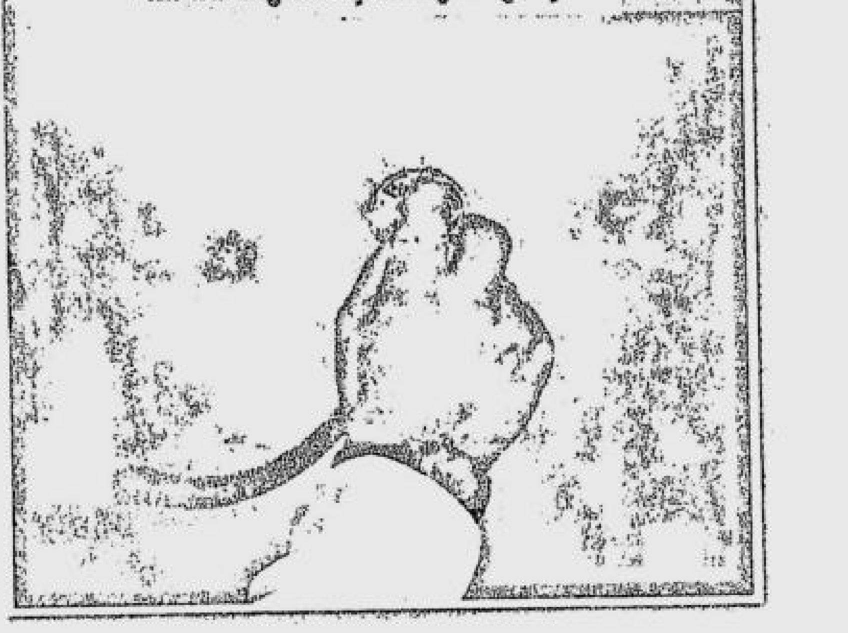

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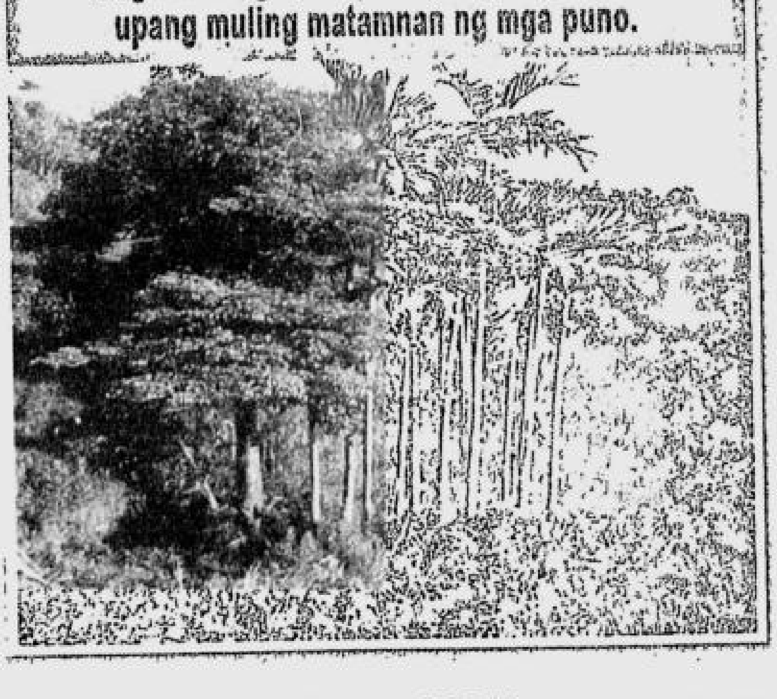

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Cartoons row boils; leaders urge calm

PARIS—EUROPEAN LEADERS CALLED on Friday for restraint as Muslims staged growing protests over cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad they consider blasphemous and more newspapers reprinted the images in the name of press freedom.

Muslim protesters in Indonesia, Turkey and the Palestinian West Bank staged violent demonstrations against the caricatures of the Prophet, one with a turban resembling a bomb.

"I am concerned ... about this escalation we have seen over the last few days," said Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, whose country holds the European Union's presidency.

"From my point of view it is high time to take a step back and make an effort to see things with each other's eyes and heart. The language or gestures of threats gets us nowhere," she told a news conference in Vienna.

But there was little respite in the fury of Muslims or in a debate over freedom of speech versus respect for religion. For some Muslims depicting the Prophet Mohammad is forbidden.

French President Jacques Chirac, whose country has the largest Muslim population in Europe, appealed for all sides to avoid "anything that could offend others' convictions."

The Paris-based United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) called for reason and "a calm and enlightened dialogue" between communities with different cultures and religions.

In the name of press freedom, more European newspapers ran controversial cartoons. The Belgian newspaper De Standaard reproduced the pictures along with letters from readers in favor of publication.

The United States condemned the cartoons, siding with Muslims outraged that newspapers put press freedom over respect for religion.

"We ... respect freedom of the press and expression but it must be coupled with press responsibility. Inciting religious or ethnic hatreds in this manner is not acceptable," said state department spokesperson Kurtis Cooper.

In New York, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said it was time for Muslims to put the matter behind them.

"What is important is that the newspaper that initially published the cartoons has apologized, and I would urge my Muslim friends to accept the apology, to accept it in the name of Allah the merciful, and let's move on," he told reporters at UN headquarters.

He also appealed to all sides in the dispute "not to take any measures that will inflame an already difficult situation." Britain's newspapers have so far refused to publish the cartoons, earning them praise from Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.

"I believe the republication of these cartoons has been unnecessary, it has been insensitive, it has been disrespectful and it has been wrong," he said.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen met Muslim envoys to seek calm but said he could not apologize on behalf of the Jyllands-Posten newspaper which first published the images.

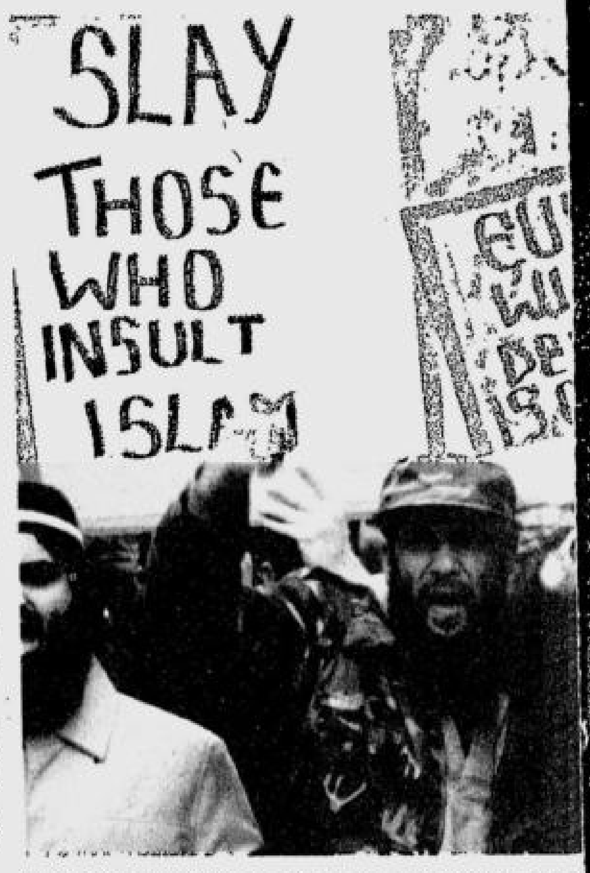
"Neither the Danish government nor the Danish nation as such can be held responsible for drawings published in a Danish newspaper," he said after the meeting.

Indonesian foreign ministry spokesperson Yuri Thamrin said the dispute pitted "the whole Islamic world vis-a-vis Denmark and vis-a-vis the trend of Islamophobia."

Up to 300 Islamic activists in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country, rampaged in the lobby of a building housing the Danish Embassy in Jakarta.

Shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest), they smashed lamps with bamboo sticks, threw chairs, lobbed rotten eggs and tomatoes and tore up a Danish flag. No one was hurt.

Reuters



MUSLIM protesters chant slogans as they march tov
London Feb. 3.

N. Zealand paper say they will no

WELLINGTON—TWO NEW ZEALAND NEWSPApers on Saturday reprinted cartoons depicting caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad which have angered Muslims across the world, saying the decision was based on press freedom.

The cartoons, first published by a Danish newspaper in September, appeared in the Dominion Post and the The Press based in Christchurch, both owned by Australia's Fairfax group.

"It's important for our readers to see what the fuss is about and to make up their own minds. Ours is a secular society based on western ideals of tolerance and open debate, even if that may occasionally offend," said Tim Pankhurst, Dominion Post's editor.

"We do not wish to be deliberately provocative but neither should we allow ourselves to be intimidated," he added.

New Zealand Federation of Islamic Associations president Javed Khan said the decision to publish the cartoons could have "serious repercussions" for

IAEA delays vote on plan to report Iran to UN Council

VIENNA—THE UN NUCLEAR watchdog put off until Saturday a vote to report Iran to the UN Security Council over concerns it is seeking atomic bombs, as European Union powers lobbied developing nations to back the measure.

Diplomats said a clear majority on the International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation board favored notifying the council on Iran but the EU held up the vote to try to hammer out a broad consensus with developing states without abstentions.

The delay arose from developing countries' attempts since Thursday to soften an EU-initiated resolution to report Iran after the Islamic Republic threatened to curb UN inspections of its atomic sites if sent to the Security Council.

An EU diplomat said later a deal with the 15 Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) nations looked unlikely but the resolution would be tabled anyway for a vote when the Vienna board reconvened at 0900 GMT on Saturday.

He said the EU rejected NAM attempts to delete a clause mandating that all IAEA investigative reports and resolutions, including one in 2005 declaring Iran noncompliant with nuclear nonproliferation safeguards, be passed to the Council.

"That was a no-no. Paragraph 2 is the holy grail for us," he said. "So in the end it looks like every country will vote on its own conscience. We expect 25 'yes' votes with about 5-7 abstentions and three 'no's'," he said.

Another Western diplomat said that to remove Paragraph 2 would have surrendered to Iranian intimidation. "The threat (to restrict inspections) is on everyone's minds but we consider it blackmail and if we give in to that, there's no end to it."

Diplomats from the EU trio of France, Germany and Britain said the threat would no deter their efforts to induce the Islamic Republic to come clean on what they suspect i military involvement in nuclear work and t stop enrichment of uranium.

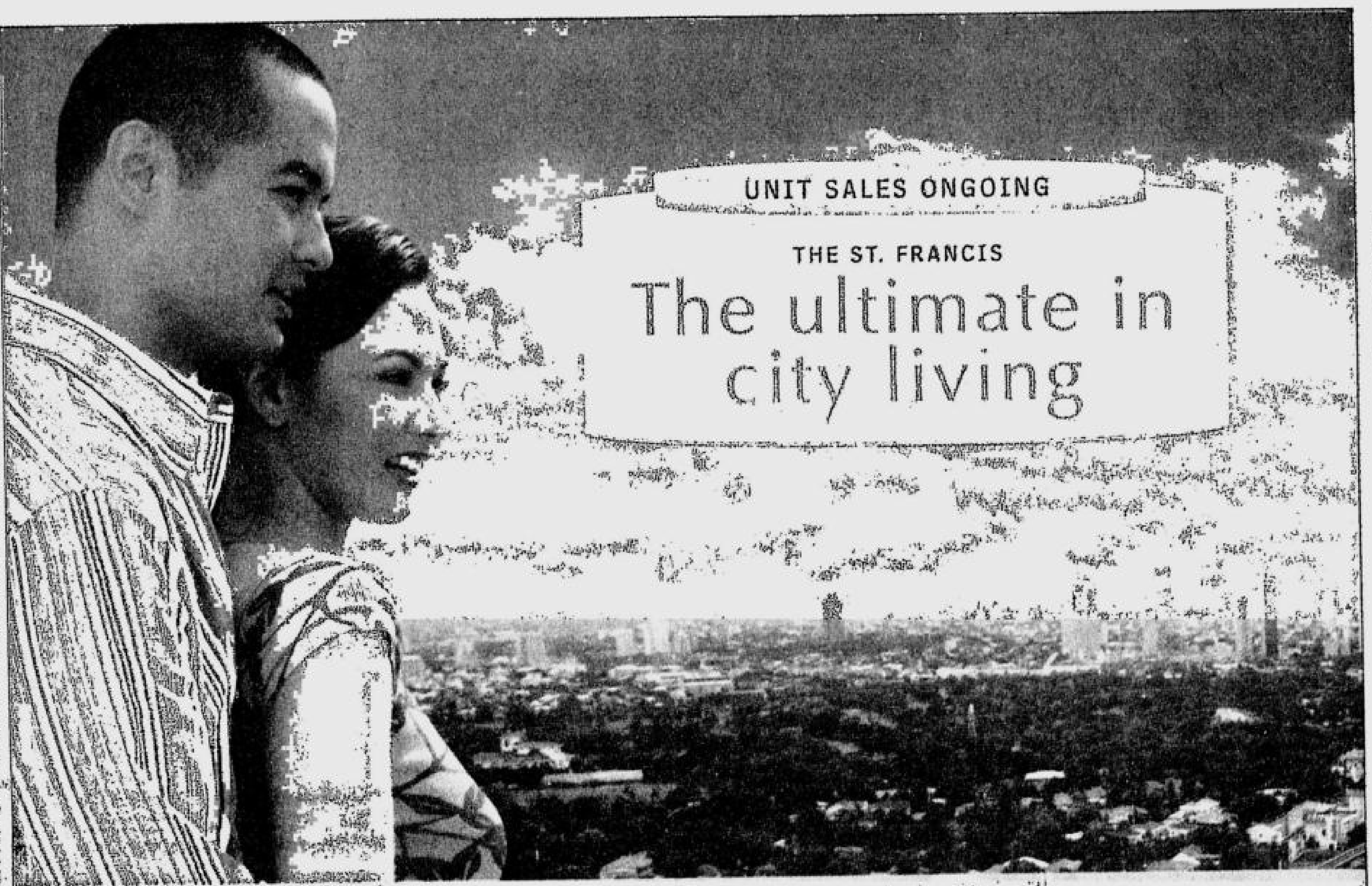
But NAM states argued Paragraph 2 coul be construed as ending IAEA oversight of Ira and opening the way to Security Counc sanctions before the IAEA concludes probe into Iran's atomic energy drive, which it con cealed for 18 years until 2003.

An EU3 diplomatic source said anothe controversy holding up action in Vienna is dispute over a clause Egypt backs saying re solving the Iranian nuclear issue would co tribute to the creation of a nuclear weapor free zone in the Middle East.

The wording, without naming Israel, clea ly referred to it, the EU3 diplomat said an proved contentious with the United States.

IAEA director-general Mohamed ElBa radei is due to deliver a sweeping report c Iran's nuclear energy program at a regul March 6 meeting of the agency's boar

Reute



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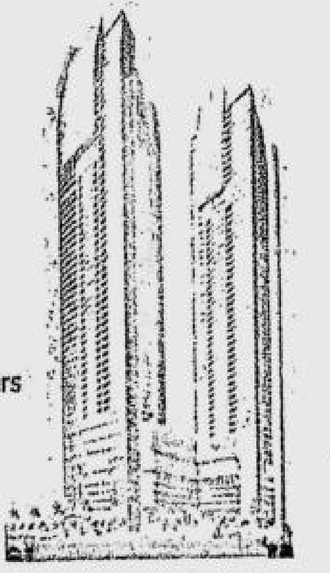

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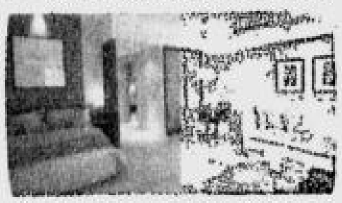

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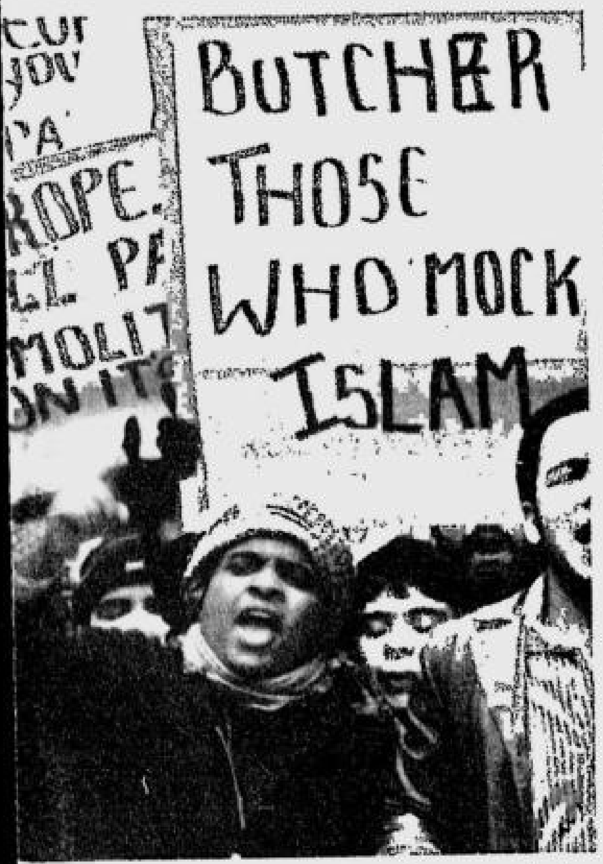

BUTCHER THOSE WHO MOCK ISLAM
ROPE.
MOLIT

vards the Danish Embassy during a demonstration in

AP

US to make long-range arms as hedge against China

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES will build new long-range weapons in a hedge against potential rivals like China, the major power best-placed to challenge US supremacy, the Pentagon said in a new strategic blueprint on Friday.

The plan also would boost US special forces by 15 percent to fight terrorism, create a military task force to thwart transfers of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and expand psychological warfare capabilities.

The Pentagon released the congressionally mandated Quadrennial Defense Review to outline its strategy for meeting anticipated security threats in the next 20 years.

The blueprint comes at a time of strain for the US military, with 138,000 troops fighting a nearly 3-year-old war in Iraq and thousands more in Afghanistan searching for al-Qaida network leaders.

It said the choices of "major and emerging powers," including India, Russia and China, would be key to the 21st century international security environment.

"Of the major and emerging powers, China has the greatest potential to compete militarily with the United States and field disruptive military technologies that could over time offset traditional US military advantages absent US counter strategies," the document said.

The United States is eager to head off any showdown with China over Taiwan, the self-governing island off China's coast over which Beijing claims sovereignty. China has vowed to attack Taiwan if it formally declares independence.

The report said China was likely to continue making large investments in such weapons as ballistic and cruise missiles, air defense systems and submarines, adding, "The pace and scope of China's military build-up already puts regional military balances at risk."

The United States seeks to dissuade China and others from developing capabilities that could threaten regional stability and to defeat aggression if deterrence failed, the report said.

Referring to China's large territory and a lack of US bases in the area, the Pentagon said it places a premium on "forces capable of sustained operations at great distances."

The blueprint, unveiled before Monday's delivery to Congress of a 2007 defense budget request of $439.3 billion, recommended a new long-range "strike" capability to be fielded by 2018 and modernizing the current bomber force.

The new capability could include manned or unmanned bombers as well as directed-energy weapons such as lasers. The Air Force Air Combat Command began a yearlong analysis of options for such a capability in October.

The plan called for increasing the number of aircraft carriers in the Pacific to five or six and maintaining 60 percent of Navy submarines there, while doubling to two the number of attack submarines bought annually by 2012.

The Pentagon cited what it called the uncertain nature of threats in the post-Sept. 11 world.

"More than on Sept. 10th, 2001, I can tell you now that US forces in all probability will be engaged somewhere in the world in the next decade where they're not currently engaged," senior Pentagon policy official Ryan Henry told reporters.

The document said North Korea was developing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and sending weapons overseas.

It cited Iran for developing long-range missiles and taking steps toward producing nuclear weapons.

To combat terrorist networks, it said the Pentagon will increase special-operations forces 15 percent from the current 52,000 and boost the number of special forces battalions by a third. These forces, a favorite of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, are more highly trained and capable of taking on more sensitive missions than regular forces.

The document called for creating a military task force to keep terrorist groups from obtaining weapons of mass destruction, and spending $1.5 billion over five years to develop medical countermeasures to germ warfare agents.

The plan would increase purchases of unmanned aircraft like the Predator and the Global Hawk drones, nearly doubling such surveillance capabilities. It also would expand psychological operations and civil affairs units by a third.

Reuters

s reprint cartoons, t be intimidated

New Zealand's economy.

The federation holds the national contract to certify meat slaughtered to traditional Islamic requirements.

"We won't call for a boycott, and we don't want to see one, but news gets around the world pretty quickly," he told the Dominion Post.

New Zealand is the world's biggest exporter of sheep meat, but exports to the Middle East made up only about 4 percent of total exports in the year to May 2004, according to the Meat Industry Association of New Zealand.

Newspapers in France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and Hungary reprinted the cartoons this week, saying press freedom was more important that the protests and boycotts they have provoked.

However, many Muslims consider any image of Prophet Mohammad to be blasphemous and offensive and the publication has sparked outrage across the Islamic world.

Reuters

Ex-Cheney aide to face trial in CIA leak case

WASHINGTON—A FEDERAL JUDGE ON FRIDAY set a January 2007 trial date for a former top White House aide facing perjury and other charges in the leak of a CIA operative's identity, pushing the trial past November's congressional elections.

The judge said jury selection would begin on Jan. 8 in the case of Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff. He faces five counts of perjury, making false statements and obstruction of justice.

Libby, who attended the hearing, has pleaded not guilty to the charges, which stem from a special prosecutor's investigation into who in the Bush administration leaked CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity to the news media in 2003, effectively ending her career at the spy agency.

Her identity was disclosed after her husband, diplomat Joseph Wilson, accused the Bush administration of twisting intelligence on weapons of mass destruction to justify the war in Iraq.

President George W. Bush's main political adviser, Karl Rove, remains under investigation in the Plame case.

A trial could put a spotlight on how the White House made its case for the Iraq war and raise questions about the role of the news media and whether reporters should have to testify in court.

Lawyers on both sides of Libby's case said they needed time to examine classified government material, resolve a dispute over what evidence should be shared and address legal issues over the involvement of reporters who may have to testify at trial.

Reuters

TIT FOR TAT

US sends home Venezuela envoy

WASHINGTON—US-VENEZUELAN RELATIONS hit a new low Friday as Washington ordered a Venezuelan diplomat expelled in retaliation for Caracas' move to kick out a US naval attache on espionage charges.

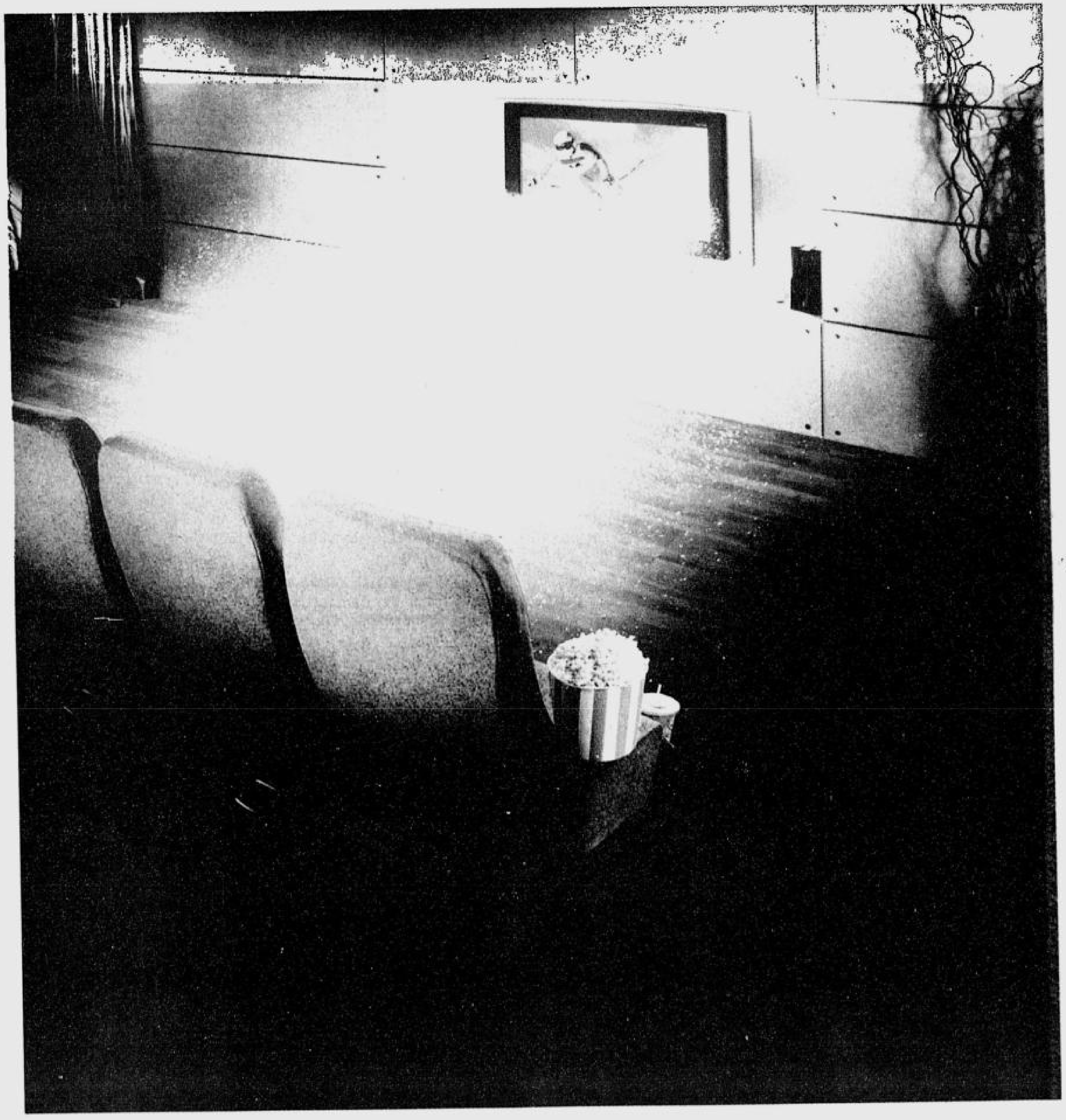
State department spokesperson Sean McCormack said Washington had informed Venezuela by diplomatic note that it was declaring Jenny Figueredo Frias, a minister counselor at the embassy here, persona non grata.

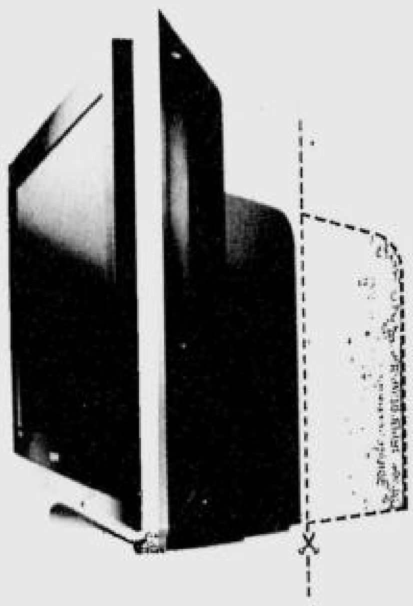
"This decision is in response to the government of Venezuela's decision to yesterday expel Commander John Correa, US naval attache in the US Embassy in Caracas," McCormack said.

McCormack said Figueredo, the chief of staff to Venezuela's ambassador, had 72 hours to leave. He did not accuse her of anything but said simply she was "the most appropriate" choice for expulsion.

"We don't like to get into tit-for-tat games like this with the Venezuelan government, but they initiated this and we were forced to respond," McCormack told the daily state department briefing.

AFP





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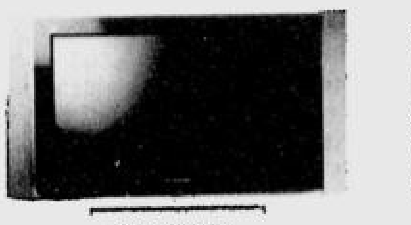

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OPINION

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Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
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Ultra tragedy

EDITORIAL

THE STAMPEDE THAT CLAIMED THE LIVES OF dozens of people at the PhilSports Arena yesterday stunned many of us into silence. When the news broke, we found ourselves unable for a time to suspend our disbelief. Who would have thought that a simple and generous game show, promising even more prizes on the occasion of its first anniversary, would turn, in a matter of minutes, into a terrible tragedy?

Tragedy, in the classic Greek sense, was a fate determined in advance; it wasn't an accident, but a date with destiny. Today, we use the word to mean the exact opposite: Tragedy is something that isn't inevitable. Something is tragic precisely because it is avoidable.

In this sense, the "Wowowee" stampede is a tragedy, and a deeply disturbing one. The victims were innocents, simple folk who waited in line, perhaps even since Wednesday, for the chance to win perhaps P300, or perhaps P10,000, or perhaps, for the truly lucky one, a house and lot worth P2.5 million.

They were also almost all women. The roll call of their names, read over and over again on the radio yesterday—Rosalinda, Trinidad, Virginia, Nita, Elizabeth, Ofelia, Elena, Belen, Fe, Dolores—was truly dolorous, one sorrowful mystery after another.

Did any of them imagine that in their attempt to realize their dreams, they would end up dying from a nightmare? The dreams must have been modest: cash to tide one over until the next day, money to pay debts off, a chance to start a small business, a house to call one's own. In the case of a 4-year-old girl who lost her life in the crush, the dream was even simpler: the chance to see host Willie Revillame in the flesh.

It is too early to know exactly what happened (or what failed to happen). But certain questions must clearly be asked.

Was there, in the first place, a failure on the part of the show's producers and the anniversary event organizers to prepare for just such an emergency? Sen. Richard Gordon, who is also chair of the Philippine National Red Cross, has noted the telling absence of ambulances and mobile clinics in the area. His point is painful, but instructive. Was there a failure (a failing shared by many Filipinos, as disaster prevention experts tell us again and again) to imagine that bad things could actually happen?

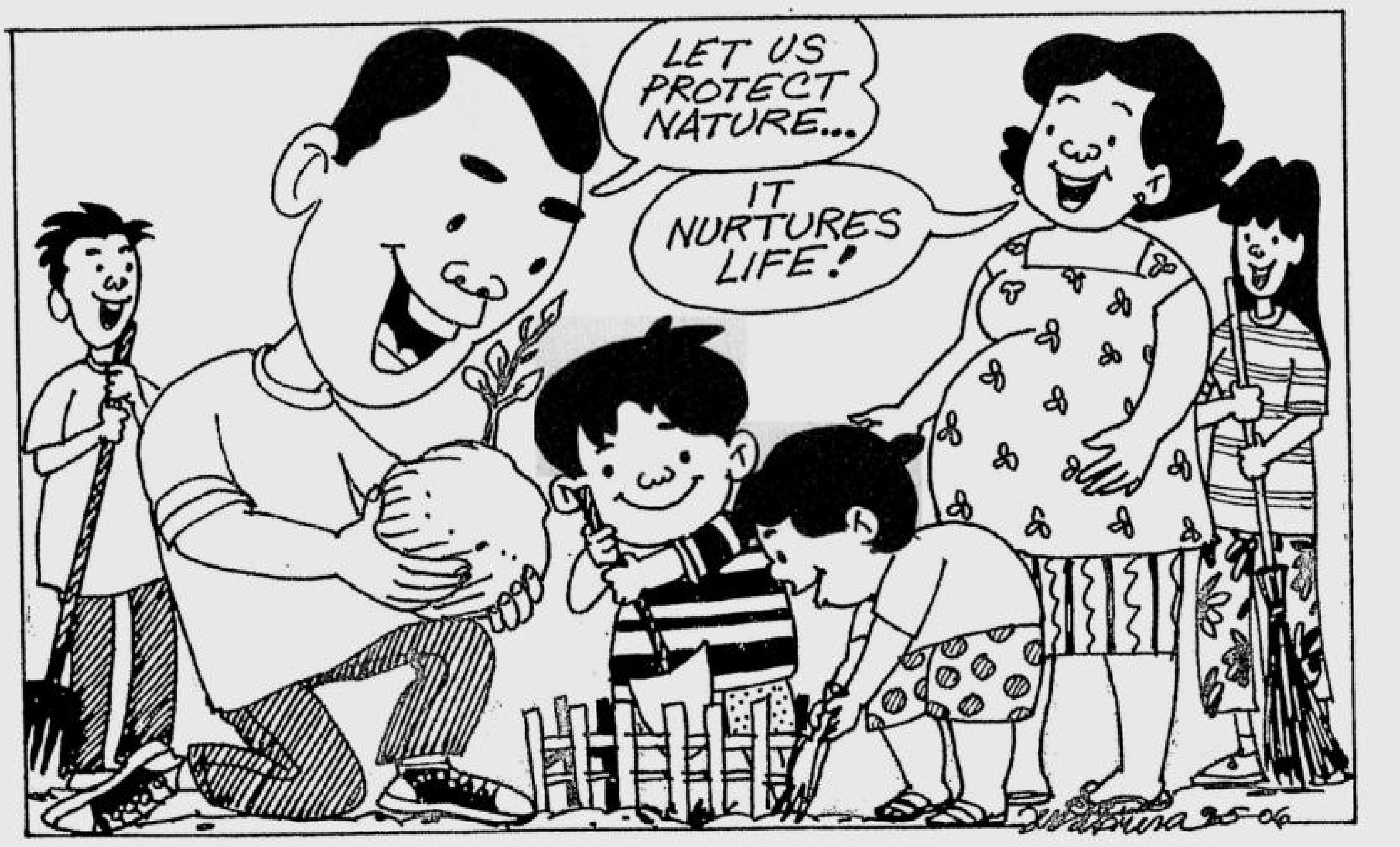
What crowd management procedures were in effect, not only at the time of the stampede—which survivors said occurred at around 6:30 or 6:45 a.m. on Saturday—but also during the build-up to the event? The line to enter the stadium started forming on Wednesday, or three days before the anniversary show. By Friday morning, the line had formed around the enormous block where the PhilSports Arena is located; perhaps as many as 10,000 people were already in the queue. But according to Revillame, the stadium (perhaps because of the special stage constructed for the event) could only accommodate 9,000 guests. What were the guidelines used to control—or manage the expectations of—the growing crowd?

Was it possible to distribute the all-important qualifying tickets, which would allow lucky guests to join the show's cash-rich contests and which numbered about 300, in a less risky manner? According to some estimates, at the time the stampede happened the crowd had swollen to about 50,000, many of them still expecting they had a chance at securing the key tickets. Perhaps these could have already been raffled off, and the names listed in an earlier show. Perhaps these could have been distributed at random, once the audience was already in the stadium.

Was 6 a.m. in fact the published time—in other words, the time those in the queue expected—for opening the gates to the stadium? Initial reports, by ABS-CBN itself, the network which airs "Wowowee," suggest that the stampede happened because the gates were not opened at the appointed time. It is easy to imagine a weary crowd turning agitated.

Of course, no one expected this. But a rattled ABS-CBN has quickly gotten down to work. It has pulled out all the stops to make amends, pledged to assume all related expenses, and deployed its reporters to cover the unflattering news.

Should it allow the show to continue? The show must go on; some have urged the network. Perhaps it really should, but only for one last time, to honor the tickets that have already been distributed. And then it should stop, a fittingly mute witness to the tragedy that struck us dumb.


LET US PROTECT NATURE...
IT NURTURES LIFE!
Soriano 2-5-06

'Voting separately'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

ART. XVII, SEC. 1 OF THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION provides that its amendment or revision may be proposed by Congress "upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members" or by a constitutional convention to be called by Congress under Sec. 3 "by a vote of two-thirds of all its Members." There is now a controversy on how the required votes "of all its Members" should be determined.

One view is that such votes should be based on the totality of the membership of Congress without distinction between the two chambers. There are now 236 members in the House of Representatives and 23 members in the Senate, giving Congress a total membership of 259. Three-fourths of this number is 194 and two-thirds is 172. Under this computation, the required votes may come exclusively from the House of Representatives over the objection of even all the 23 outvoted senators.

The advocates of this interpretation argue that the Constitution should be literally understood in accordance with its clear language as the primary aid in determining its intention. All secondary aids are immaterial and may be resorted to only if the meaning of the Constitution is ambiguous, which is not so in this case.

They say that if the Constitutional Commission of 1986 had intended otherwise, it should have categorically said so. For example, Art. VI, Sec. 23(1) provides that "the Congress, by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses in joint session assembled, **voting separately**, shall have the sole power to declare the existence of a state of war." Conversely, Art. VII, Sec. 18, on the proclamation of martial law and the suspension of the privilege of habeas corpus, provides that "the Congress, **voting jointly**, by a vote of at least a majority of all its Members in regular or special session, may revoke such proclamation or suspension…"

The opposite view, as presented by Fr. Joaquin Bernas in his column some weeks ago, is that excluding the Senate under the first interpretation would lead to the absurd effect of disqualifying it from the exercise of the serious power of changing the Constitution. Congress is a bicameral body and its two chambers should act together unless otherwise provided in the Constitution. *Interpretatio talis in ambiguis simper frienda est, ut evitatur inconveniens et absurdum.* I agree with the conclusion and hope it is correct, but I have misgivings about the reasons Father Bernas gives.

I am not persuaded by the argument that absent a specific reservation by the Constitution, all other powers granted to Congress should be exercised by the two chambers voting separately even if this is not expressly required. This may be true in the enactment of laws but not necessarily in the discharge of its non-legislative functions like the revision of the Constitution.

I believe that when the Constitution requires the two chambers to vote separately, it will so indicate unequivocally. Thus, it states in Art. VII, Sec. 3 that in case of a tie between two presidential candidates obtaining the highest number of votes "one of them shall be chosen by the vote of a majority of all the Members of both Houses of Congress, **voting separately**." Section 9 provides that the President's nominee for the vacated Vice-Presidency shall need "confirmation by a majority vote of all the Members of both Houses of Congress, **voting separately**." Section 11 also carefully provides that Congress may declare the incapacity of the President "by a two-thirds vote of both Houses, **voting separately**."

Why was separate voting still expressly required in these provisions if it was supposed anyway to be the accepted rule?

(Incidentally, what will happen if the Senate supports candidate A and the House of Representatives votes separately for candidate B or if one chamber finds the President incapacitated and the other chamber says he is not? But that is another story.)

The collaborative partnership of the two chambers was long ago affirmed by the Supreme Court in Guevara v. Inocentes, 18 SCRA 379, which held that the adjournment *sine die* of the Senate automatically also adjourned the House of Representatives because "the House without the Senate is not Congress." Despite the doubts I have expressed here, I hope this case will reject the attempt of the House of Representatives to exclude the Senate in the proposal to change the Constitution.

All this controversy could have been avoided if the Constitutional Commission of 1986 had carefully provided in Article XVII that the required votes of all the members of Congress should be taken from the two chambers, voting separately. The commissioners simply copied the corresponding provisions in the 1973 Constitution perhaps forgetting that the Batasang Pambansa did not have to vote separately because it was unicameral unlike the bicameral Congress they were reviving.

If the question of the proper interpretation of Article XVII is elevated to the Supreme Court, let us pray that it will resolve this constitutional dilemma with wisdom and courage.

Letting go, and moving on

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT AN EMPLOYEE who, thinking it was the opportune time to ask for a promotion, boldly approached his boss during the wake of their company executive assistant and said: "Sir, he is now in the coffin. Can I take his place?" To which the boss replied: "Well, if you can fit into the coffin, why not?"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 1, 29-39) Jesus reminds us that there is nothing that can take the place of prayer. No matter how busy and how "in demand" Jesus was, He always went off to a deserted place to pray. Is there still a place for prayer in you life? Do you take time off to pray? No matter how important a person you are (or think you are) remember that Jesus was a very important person. But He always took time off to pray.

* * *

If Jesus never took time off to pray because of His busy schedule, He would not have finished His three years of public ministry. He was preaching and healing from morning till evening, with "the whole town gathered at his door," and everyone looking for Him, but he knew how to quietly disappear and fade away to recharge and commune with the Father. Great people know how to disappear and fade away. People of lesser greatness are those who don't know how to disappear and fade away.

* * *

It is interesting to note that the lieutenants of Jesus were the ones who sought Him out in His solitude to say that everyone was looking for Him. As in Jesus' time, so it is in our time: the ones around a leader, a personality or a celebrity are the ones who are more aggressive and more defensive than their boss. Why? Because of the benefits they get from their position. They want their boss to stay on, no matter what, so that they will continue to enjoy their rewards and perks. It is sad that values and principles are set aside easily these days for personal gain and ambition.

* * *

Let go, let God, and move on. This is one lesson in life we all need to learn. Summer is not forever. So is health. So is wealth. So is beauty. So is power. Life is more of letting go than holding on. Someone beautifully put it: in the end, only three things matter: How deeply we loved, how fully we lived, and how we let go of things or people not meant for us. Mission is leaving. Mission is crossing over. Mission is moving on.

* * *

Speaking of mission, 10 young men were ordained priests last Feb. 3 at the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay, by His Excellency Luis Chito Tagle, DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Imus. Four of these Divine Word missionaries are Vietnamese and are assigned to Vietnam; one is a Congolese assigned to the Philippines; five are Filipinos, two of whom are assigned to Papua New Guinea and to East Timor, making true what Jesus says in today's Gospel "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose I have come." Praise God for these generous missionaries who leave home, country and family for the sake of the Kingdom of God. They are witnesses to the Word in the world (www), leaving home, country and family; braving deprivation, loneliness and even persecution so that "the heart of Jesus lives in the hearts of all." One with you!

* * *

All of us are missionaries. We are all supposed to be "salt of the earth" and "light of the world." We are to make a difference wherever we go, whatever we do. Making a difference doesn't mean doing great things in high places. It simply means doing God's will and proclaiming His message in whatever circumstances we find ourselves in. Are you doing your mission for the Lord? Are you making a difference?

* * *

Feb. 4 is World Cancer Day. This year we focus on children with cancer. Last December, I met 3-year-old Seve Augusto Perez who goes through chemotherapy weekly and many other medical procedures like spinal tap, bone marrow aspiration and even blood and platelet transfusion. It is estimated that there are 3,500 new cases of childhood cancer in the Philippines. Parents should be sensitive to the signs of childhood cancer, such as unexplained bruises and high fever. We salute Seve and the thousands of children who gamely fight childhood cancer. Gamely? Because Seve has remained cheerful and playful through it all. Such a happy, smiling child! And such a prayerful child, talking to Jesus and Mary aloud as if they were just at his side. Come to think of it. Jesus and Mary are always at our side!

* * *

Vincent Acierto, Fatima Soriano, Seve Augusto Perez are just some of the few children I have met through the years, who though familiar with pain at an early age, have shown us tremendous courage and faith. So young, so fragile, and so wounded, but so full of hope. They are a real inspiration. They are doing their mission. And they are moving on. We salute them, and their parents and guardians who share in their mission.

* * *

Calling all members of UST Beta Gamma Phi Fraternity for a grand reunion on Feb. 11-12. For particulars, call Dr. Lito Bautista (09178331236) and/or Dr. Tony Garcia (09189234200).

* * *

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, help me to learn to let go, let God, and move on. Amen.

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REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT JOBS IN ANY government institution is that of a spokesman, information officer or public affairs director of the office. This is especially true when the product or program is shrouded in controversy, or if people suspect a lack of transparency in the presentation of the different sides of a current issue. There are also certain factors that influence our acceptance or non-acceptance of statements being made by information officers. Their ability to express and explain their views with clarity and understanding is certainly an important point. Trust is also a vital ingredient in any exchange of information, and credibility is built around trustworthiness. When a person is known for speaking the truth, we tend to accept or at the very least, to keep an open mind about any subject that he presents in the course of discussions. When this trust is broken, restoration is almost impossible.

My late father was the first press secretary of President Manuel Roxas. He was also the spokesman for the administration. Unfortunately, he didn't last very long in the job. Circumstances conspired to make him choose between personal loyalty to the president, on the one hand, and candor to those close to him, on the other. Apparently, he had not been saying much when asked about the President's whereabouts. As a result, he was exiled to Honolulu in 1947 to serve as the country's first consul general in its fledgling foreign service. He returned to the Philippines a few years later to restart the Philippines Herald, a Madrigal-owned daily.

In the Armed Forces of the Philippines, there are four officers who, more often than others, represent the public face of the organization. They have the unenviable task of trying to explain to a skeptical public the difficult issues that concern the Armed Forces—issues such as the apolitical role of the military in our society, the meaning of loyalty to the chain of command, the supposed unrest in certain sectors of the armed forces, the politicization of the organization by outside forces, the pressures being exerted by retired officers on the active members, the continuing trial of junior officers for their participation in the Oakwood mutiny, and of course, the problem of corruption involving senior officers now facing trial.

The most prominent in this quartet is the AFP public information officer and spokesman, Col. Tristan M. Kison of the Philippine Army. A member of PMA class 1979, Kison hails from Lipa City and served with the 34th Infantry Battalion as a platoon leader and company commander. In 2000, he was assigned to the Republic of Singapore as our defense and armed forces attaché (DAFA). Two years later, his post was adjudged the best DAFA post of the country. The only problem was that he found life in the island-state quite boring since, in his words, "everything was in order," a view shared by many who have spent time in Singapore.

From Singapore, he served as a battalion commander in Quezon Province and was deeply involved in search-and-rescue operations, as well as in relief-and-rehabilitation work, in the aftermath of the strong typhoons that hit Quezon in December 2004.

The Naval Public Information Office is headed by Capt. Geronimo B. Malabanan. Originally with the Philippine Army, he was commissioned in August 1974 and underwent various trainings in Australia and the United States, including a Public Affairs Officers' Course at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. He served as a military observer in East Timor from 1999 to 2000. Malabanan has an AB in History from the National University.

The Army Public Affairs Office is headed by Maj. Vicente Bacarro who also serves as Army spokesman. He is a member of PMA class of 1988. Prior to this position, Bacarro served in a number of administrative and operational assignments, including a deployment to Iraq with the United Nations. His specialization courses include Strategic Intelligence Training in Washington, D.C., Peacekeeping Operations in Canada, and Public Affairs Orientation in Hawaii.

Bacarro is also the proud holder of the Medal of Valor, the highest award in the AFP, for conspicuous courage, gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty during a 10-hour encounter with 150 communist terrorists in Isabela on Feb. 28, 1991.

The director for public information and spokesman for the Philippine Air Force is Lt. Col. Restituto F. Padilla Jr. A member of PMA class 1985, Padilla is a seasoned aviator who has spent much time as a tactical helicopter pilot flying air-ground support missions for the AFP and participating in numerous rescue and relief operations during times of calamities and disasters.

Padilla is the son of former Army commander Maj. Gen. Restituto Padilla, PMA class 1957. He continues to serve in the proud tradition of his father. He studied at the Air University in Alabama and attended the Asian Institute of Management where he obtained a master's degree in Development Management. During the December floods which hit Quezon in 2004, I recall that he was cited by news reporters for the professional manner in which he handled media-related problems, particularly those that concerned air transport. As the saying goes, he was "cool as a cucumber."

Perhaps, the best advice one can give to these fine officers who—if one thinks about it—are not professional public relations practitioners, is this: Whenever you exaggerate, whenever you overstate your case, you lose. When you stick to the facts, you win.

A 'jewel' of a series

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

INTRIGUE AND CORRUPTION IN THE PALACE. A family whose members conspire to destroy anyone who threatens their hold on power or who puts their business interests at risk. A leader who is torn between two conflicting sets of advisers. A social elite concerned only with maintaining their wealth and status even as the poor go hungry and fall sick.

The Philippines in the new millennium? Guess again. This describes Korea in the 16th century, during the Chosun Dynasty when the country was ruled by a king and the country was a vassal state of the Chinese emperor.

This is also the setting for "Jewel in the Palace," a 54-episode TV series which, when it aired in Korea in 2003, garnered an average rating of 54 percent for its parent network MBC, the highest ever in Korean TV history. The show would go on to set new records when it aired in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam and Mainland China. Currently airing on GMA-Channel 7, "Jewel in the Palace" is bringing in, on average, ratings of 36-38 percent. This is, says Joey Abacan of GMA's programming department, "very good for a canned material."

What's the secret of "Jewel's" success? It tells the story of Jang Geum, an orphan who grows up as a kitchen maid in the Palace, with ambitions of being named the "chief madam" of the Royal Kitchen. But through a twist of fate, Jang Geum ends up as a woman doctor, eventually being named King Jung Jong's personal physician, defying the conventions of patriarchal Korean society. So treasured is she that the King names her "Dae Jang Geum" or "the great Jang Geum," which is the show's original title. Jang Geum also happens to be a real personage in Korean history, as is King Jung Jong, though much of the series' material is fictional.

* * *

JANG Geum—plucky, intelligent, courageous, principled and often too curious for her own good—certainly makes for a fascinating lead character. There's also a love story thrown in for good measure, between Jang Geum and the devoted soldier/scholar Min Jung Ho.

But beyond the characters and the absorbing story, which centers on the convoluted relationship between Jang Geum's family and her guardian Madam Han on one hand, and the powerful and devious Choi clan on the other, there are also all the details and minutiae of life in ancient Korea.

There's plenty of material here for any student of Korean history and tradition, from the cuisine to the costumes, the old ways of diagnosing illnesses and treating the symptoms, courtly society and etiquette, even the relationships between the Korean kingdom and its neighbors China and Japan. The show is also pleasing to the eye, what with the women clad in jewel-toned *hanbok*, the billowing traditional dress; and the men in their silken robes and headwear. Even the dishes look so scrumptious that Korean restaurants serving royal cuisine are said to be enjoying a boom in business.

Media critics, analyzing the strong performance of "Jewel in the Palace" even in foreign markets, attribute the high ratings to the show's extolling of Confucian values, which Koreans share in common with Chinese and Japanese. But why is it doing so well in the Philippines?

* * *

"OF course, we were frightened," says Abacan when I asked if they did not have initial apprehensions about airing such "foreign" material. "We had our misgivings, but this series has really been an eye-opener for us. I guess the viewers are really going for the novelty and the dramatic build-up of the story."

Abacan recalls encountering two women at the grocery and overhearing one of them urging the other to hurry up so they could go home and "catch Jang Geum." He also shares that they receive phone calls and e-mail inquiries on everything, from the dishes prepared in the show to the herbal remedies mentioned.

Indeed, one could feel the pride the show's creators feel in their history, culture and traditions—a pride its local audience apparently shared, and which comes through in the detailed depictions of ancient court life, the care lavished on the costumes and settings, even the loving way the camera lingers on the beautiful scenery, be it a dramatic seascape or a field of wild grass silhouetted against the setting sun.

Watching "Jewel in the Palace," I couldn't help but feel a twinge of envy for the Koreans, who can get a history lesson each night by way of a show that is both educational and entertaining, but which also manages to comment on the lingering vestiges of the past on the present.

Korean TV serials, we are told, are divided into "historical" dramas and so-called "trendy dramas," which tackle more contemporary themes, often centered on complicated love stories. But in "Jewel in the Palace," the past is used not just as a setting but also as a context for Jang Geum's personal circumstances and the measure of her triumph.

* * *

HOW often have we heard scholars and historians bemoan the Filipinos' lack of appreciation for our history and heritage, which makes it difficult for us to care deeply not just for our heirloom buildings and artifacts, but even for our environment and surroundings?

Would a show similar to "Jewel" do the trick? We do not lack for historical productions—the series on epochal events of Philippine history produced by the ABS-CBN Foundation comes to mind, as does "Jose Rizal" by GMA Films—but they have yet to equal the success and international appeal of "Jewel."

But for such a show to emerge from the morass of commercial material on local TV, we must first find a measure of pride in our past, respect for our traditions, and certainty about who and what we are as a people. There are many "Jang Geums" in our stories of long ago. All we need to do is to find them and tell them well.

The work of a columnist

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

WITHOUT MENTIONING MY NAME, BUT QUOTING liberally from my column last Sunday, my friend and fellow INQUIRER columnist, Amando Doronila, takes issue (PDI, 2/1/06) with me on my criticism of Consultative Commission Chair Jose V. Abueva and newly-appointed Presidential Adviser for Electoral Reforms Hilario G. Davide Jr. I welcome Doro's defense of Abueva and Davide. In the spirit of public debate, of which there is so little in our society, I will respond to his rejoinder.

He thinks that in criticizing Abueva and Davide, I have made "judgment calls that clearly lack academic detachment." So far as I know, "detachment" is a posture that has been questioned even in academe. If "academic detachment" were my goal, I would not write an opinion column. I would write dull monographs for specialists, in a language stripped of social judgment. Surely, Doronila does not believe that academic treatises, written in the dry dispassionate style of scholars, are the only justifiable statements that can be made about the world we live in. I have precisely kept one foot in media while continuing to teach at the university because I refuse to be trapped in academic debates that have little to do with the social reality of ordinary people.

Of course, this does not mean that a columnist is free to make irresponsible statements. I do believe that, harsh as it may seem, I am justified in my assertion that Dr. Abueva has lent himself as a "prop to a moribund presidency." Doronila himself concedes that "the regime that appointed them (Abueva and Davide) faces a crisis of legitimacy." He forgets to add that it is a regime that refuses to confront the issue of legitimacy head-on and instead props itself up by the cynical use of the power of appointment and disbursement.

I disagree that the issue here is simply that of accepting an appointment from a "polluted" presidency. Important positions in the government bureaucracy become vacant every day and they are routinely filled by the president as the appointing authority. So long as they went through a credible search process, no one questions these officials' acceptance of their appointments. Indeed many of them become exemplary civil servants.

But the positions of Dr. Abueva and Justice Davide are of a different kind. A "Consultative Commission" for Charter change is not provided in our Constitution or in any of our laws. Neither is the office of a "Presidential Adviser on Electoral Reforms." These are not neutral or regular positions. These are ad hoc tools of an administration that is waging a desperate struggle for political survival. Their functions are compromised by the necessities of the highly partisan process in which they are embedded.

Before his appointment, Dr. Abueva was doing excellent work on leadership and governance at the University of the Philippines. His contributions are important and they have been acknowledged. As a colleague and friend, I was disturbed when he accepted the position of lead convenor of a consultative assembly that was designed to hasten the shift to a parliamentary system, and I shared my misgivings with him. I told him that Charter change at this time was meant to sidestep the crucial issue of presidential legitimacy. My worst suspicions have been confirmed. When the "no-election" provision was appended to the draft, I expected Dr. Abueva to quickly distance himself from the project. But, to my disappointment, he did not. As Manolo Quezon graphically put it, "still he wags his tail."

Sometimes the call to public service is better answered outside government. After retiring from a distinguished career in the public service, Chief Justice Davide could have been an effective and credible advocate of electoral reform if he had set up his own center or institute, and used his stature to obtain useful information and mobilize other well-meaning citizens to help put together a plan to cure the defects of our electoral system. He forfeited this opportunity by opting to take his orders from Ms Arroyo. Does he really believe Ms Arroyo is committed to electoral reform? That's the only question he needs to ask himself.

If my friend Amando Doronila thinks that raising such questions is to mount a "high horse to pontificate on political morality," I wish all of us would soon find our respective horses. For I see no way we can transform the way we live as a nation except by judging things from the higher vantage point of what we hope to be.

Doronila attacks me for once "giving intellectual legitimacy to the presidential bid of former President Joseph Estrada." I never campaigned for Estrada in any election. But, yes, I welcomed his election to the presidency in 1998. I saw it optimistically as paving the way to the re-insertion of the poor into the circuits of our national life. Doronila got it wrong when he claims that I withdrew support from Estrada only "when he ran into serious political problems." I criticized Estrada long before there was any call to impeach him. I opposed the Visiting Forces Agreement forged under his administration. I objected to the all-out war he launched against the Muslim guerrillas in Mindanao. And in 2001, I acted on my beliefs by joining my students at Edsa to demand his ouster. I do not regret any of these.

The work of a columnist or any public commentator, as I see it, is to interpret events—to give them meaning in the light of what we can be as a people. I approach this duty never as a detached academic, but always as a citizen fully engaged in the task of creating new forms of solidarity.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

'Sakayan ng jeep'

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

I BOARD IN A LITTLE CORNER OF UP DILIMAN, MY UNIT tucked away on the third floor of one of the apartment buildings. It takes a full 12 minutes and 34 seconds to get from front door to classrooms. This means most of the time, I arrive approximately 12 minutes and 34 seconds late for my morning classes (with the exception of my theater class, out of a respectful fear of the professor who locks the door at 10 sharp and pointedly ignores sheepish, puppy-dog eyes begging through the glass window).

The area I live in is shaped like an L, branching out from the main road. It's a pretty small place, just two connecting streets leading to a dead end. Once inside though, even in view of the GMA and ABS-CBN towers, it's hard to believe you're in Metro Manila, much less the center of Quezon City. In the morning, in true parochial fashion, the air is cold, the grass is wet, the birds chirp, there's even a carabao in one garage, and fresh *pan de sal* is sold for a peso each down the corner. A couple of vendors walk through hollering, "*potoh, behkoh, kochentah*," and, just recently, "*pancet!*"

I don't own a car—a fact that friends, family and the average bystander should be thankful for. In the last four years, I've ridden every form of public transportation available in the greater Metro Manila area. As I've already written a treatise on the MRT, and am slowly but steadily running out of material to cannibalize for my column, I'm moving on to the jeepney. Next week, expect a dissertation on the pedicab.

Every morning, at 7 a.m., there's a rumbling down the lane that sounds something in between a dragon's roar and a 747 airplane. Our one jeepney (that we proudly call "the shuttle"), slowly rattles down from the main road all the way to the dead end, U-turns, rattles off again to the main road, U-turns, then rattles back down. As I live two buildings away from the dead end, the roar is a signal to stuff a cookie in my mouth, grab my gigantic purse and toss the cats into the bathroom—easier than wasting time climbing up the roof in search of renegade felines. Then it's out the door and down the flights of stairs. By the time I hit the ground floor pavement, ready for pick-up, the jeep will have just finished its U-turn.

The driver has fast become a good friend. While I sit on the front seat dragging a comb through my hair, he tells me about the last movie he's seen, his girlfriend back home in the Visayas, then he deposits me by the shed to wait for the next "Ikot" jeepney to swing by.

The yellow-roofed Ikot goes around the campus, one ride currently costing P6.50. Its counterpart, the "Toki," travels roughly the same route in the opposite direction. I've always been afraid of saying "*para*," or knocking on the roof or raising a hand or taking any of the half-dozen other ways to make the jeepney stop so I could get off. There is neither rhyme nor reason to the fear, as I am as shy as a clown in the middle of Luneta. But there's always been that niggling dread that nobody else would stop the jeep where I want to disembark. I've found myself traveling the whole route simply because I was too nervous to say a word, until even the driver gave me the strangest look when I sheepishly went down the same place I got on, then hopped back in. Thank goodness, I found my cow.

Let me explain. After picking up on my inability to master the rudiments of the Spanish language (and probably tired of my whining), my Spanish teacher told me the story of a town in Spain called Cuerca. She said the people lived off water that came from a nearby dike. One day, the water stopped coming. The people couldn't figure out what was wrong, so finally, they made a thorough inspection of the dike. Over the drain, they found a cow blocking the way.

The moral of the story, said my bright-eyed teacher in absolute seriousness, is to find your cow.

Although I'm still looking for my inner cow that bleats out a "*No comprendo*," to every Spanish statement, I did find the cow blocking my ability to properly utilize the best of Philippine transportation. I may have gone a little too far, as I now holler "*Para!*" at the hapless driver, which I repeat at two-second intervals until the jeepney makes an abrupt stop. I feel powerful.

Beside the driver, over the moneybox, is usually some form of tiny altar, with a rosary hanging over the rearview mirror. If cab drivers manifest their creativity by naming their taxis (I once rode a "Precarious Cab" in Baguio), jeepney drivers use the whole jeepney as their canvas. The front is decorated by chrome horses, side mirrors that are nowhere near the side, and names of daughters, lovers, mothers and wives. The side is decorated with portraits of Jesus in various stages of his life, along with landscapes, astrological signs (with a special fondness for Virgo and Aquarius), cartoon characters, and bold stars. The curtains can range from plastic to leather to the pink and purple crochet work by the driver's great-grandmother.

"Jeepney," I have just learned, is a derivation from "jeep" and "knee," I'm guessing because my knee has made contact with various other knees while riding along.

When I get on the jeep, I either jump into the front seat beside the driver, or immediately attach myself to the end nearest the exit. I figure this is a girl thing, as it does seem to be the most valued piece of real estate, judging from the automatic movement of females toward the space when emptied. My logic is, the closer to the exit, the less the probability that I will either slip, bang my head on the ceiling or accidentally display my pink Hello Kitty underwear on the trip down the aisle. Not to mention I avoid to take the automatic role of *konduktor* that sitting behind the driver implies, with "*Bayad po*" reverberating in your ear.

The jeepney first made its way down the streets of Cavite after World War II, when the Americans left behind thousands of its military jeeps. As with Thailand's *tuk-tuk*, London's Black Cab, Vietnam's *cyclo* and Japan's bullet trains, the jeep is a statement of the country: something American made vibrant, colorful, practical and intensely Filipino.

I can hear the shuttle rattling downstairs (as it has 24 different times in the last four hours), and I'm off to face my Spanish cow. If only I can say "*Para po*," to the semester.

* * *

E-mail the author at pat.evangelista@gmail.com

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to:
jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS CALLED FOR the repeal of the Mining Act of 1995, saying that it "destroys life." The law opens up the country's mining industry to foreign companies.

In a statement issued on Jan. 29, the CBCP highlighted the threat posed by large-scale mining operations to the people's right to food and livelihood, to their health, and to the environment.

"Our experiences of environmental tragedies and incidents with the mining transnational corporations belie all assurances of sustainable and responsible mining that the Arroyo administration is claiming," the bishops said.

The bishops said the "promised economic benefits of mining by these transnational corporations are outweighed by the dislocation of communities especially among our indigenous brothers and sisters."

President Macapagal-Arroyo had said that mining could easily wipe out the country's foreign debts and yet leave more for future generations.

The bishops urged Ms Arroyo to recall all approved mining concessions and to disapprove pending applications.

To appease the bishops, Malacañang has offered to suspend the issuance of new mining permits.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines warned that repealing the Mining Act would result in the loss of some two million jobs and "bankruptcy" of the government.

Mining Act revisited

'We're committed to responsible mining'

By Benjamin Philip Romualdez

THE STATEMENT OF THE CATHOLIC Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) calling for the repeal of the Mining Act of 1995, the cancellation of all mining concessions and disapproval of mining applications is sweeping and extreme. The issues regarding the Mining Act have been resolved with finality by the highest court of our country.

The position of the CBCP, if heeded, will lead to negative repercussions on the country's efforts to enhance the economic base. The repeal of the Mining Act, the recall of all approved mining tenements and the suggested disapproval of pending applications will result in the following:

1. Loss of jobs for more than 2 million people who are directly and indirectly connected with the mining industry. This will result in widespread unemployment and dislocation of their families, thereby aggravating the economy and consigning 10 million more Filipinos into abject poverty.

2. Bankruptcy of the Philippine government since billions of dollars will have to be paid to the companies for their investments thus far.

3. The credibility of the country will be eroded and will adversely affect the improving market and economic fundamentals and credit rating.

We at the Chamber of Mines share the concerns about poverty, protection of individual rights and freedom, and the environment.

We are committed to responsible mining and sustainable development of our resources.

We reiterate our offer to open an honest dialogue so that we all can better understand the CBCP's concerns.

We are confident that, upon further reflection, this extreme position of the CBCP will change. God has blessed us with rich mineral wealth to be explored and developed for the benefit of our people.

Help us, and let us work together to achieve a better life for Filipinos.

(Romualdez is the president of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines and of Benguet Corp.)

Mining, right now, is the country's ticket to progress. What is holding us back is an uninformed perception that we can do away with mining

'To stop mining is to stop progress'

By Julito Sarmiento

LAFAYETTE'S RAPU-RAPU POLYmetallic project has been hogging the headlines lately, mainly because of the call of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines to stop all large-scale mining as a way of protecting the environment and giving the poor a better life.

It is odd that these very mining companies are the best parties to help achieve all these aspirations and substantially more because they invest huge amounts of money and employ 21st century technology.

The only issue is that mining is now being defined by the isolated mine incidents that conveniently are foisted as the rule, instead of the exception. The proposed solution of closure is so radical and extreme that it is actually isolationist and antiforeign investment, a business model that a poverty-stricken North Korea and a booming China argue against.

Late last year, the Rapu-Rapu project had two mine incidents. The solution is not to close it down but to let it operate under the strictest of rules and under the glare of public scrutiny. To do that, a new management team, which has the competence and the track record in mining unblemished by environmental issues, took over recently.

New management

Carlos G. Dominguez is the new chair and president of Lafayette Philippines. He has promised to address all the issues and concerns of all sectors and is committed to meeting as a minimum all the legal requirements on environmental protection and sustainable mining operations.

He has also thrown open Rapu-Rapu to scientists and various organizations in Albay and Sorsogon as part of his policy of transparency and efforts to find out why the 2005 incidents happened and what safeguards he needs to put in place.

"Since I took over two weeks ago, I gave an irrevocable commitment that the Rapu-Rapu project in Albay will not resume operations unless all the safety and environmental requirements are met, and whenever possible, exceeded," Dominguez said.

He added: "The incidents last year are constant reminders to us that we should do much more than is required if we are to regain the full trust of our stakeholders and be a partner once again in the growth of the communities and the country."

Misunderstood

Mining is a partnership with the communities. It pays the government taxes and its share of the revenues. It generates new businesses and thousands of jobs. It is also in the best position to help the communities with education, health and other basic needs because it operates in the area.

Dominguez said mining is misunderstood because it is viewed only from the production end. "Mining is part of our daily lives and we cannot live without it unless we are willing to give up forks and spoons; eyeglasses; cement for houses, roads and bridges; cars, buses, planes and ships; cell phones and computers; and electricity, to name a few."

"To stop mining is to stop progress. The answer is to make sure mining rules are tightened and enforced. The mining companies, on the other hand, must completely comply. We, the new management of Lafayette, will definitely do this," Dominguez said.

Dominguez turned around Pasar (Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp.), a mineral processing company that fully complied with all requirements and did not have any environmental and pollution issues with regulators.

He is also considered the father of the Bantay Dagat program, which he pushed when he was the agriculture secretary under the Aquino administration.

(Sarmiento is a director and the corporate secretary of Lafayette Philippines Inc.)

ILLUSTRATION BY ERNIE SAMBO

RP has 25 percent of world's known nickel reserves

By Leo Gamolo

THE PHILIPPINES CAN BE ONE OF the richest countries in the region if only it can get its act together and harness its mining potential.

If the Middle East has oil, the Philippines has 25 percent of the world's known nickel reserves. And then there are other minerals as well: gold, silver, copper, etc.

The National Economic Development Authority estimated the country's mineral resources to be worth $1 trillion in 2004, making the country's overall debt a drop in the bucket. Mineral prices have shot through the roof since then.

Every now and then, people say if only the Philippines could find oil, it would be rich. It does not need to find oil. It is actually sitting literally on an equivalent mineral the value of which boggles the mind.

But it also boggles the mind to hear of late calls to stop large-scale mining so that the environment can be protected, and to simply look for other livelihood projects for the poor.

But what alternative livelihood? Tricycle? Farming? Fishing? All these depend on mining: the steel, the fertilizer and the boats and nets. Our daily life is dependent on materials from living things such as forests and nonliving, such as minerals. We will not survive without either.

Mining, right now, is the country's ticket to progress. What is holding us back is an uninformed perception that we can do away with mining. On the contrary, the solution is to make sure that mining rules are tight and are followed, not to stop large companies that have the technology and the resources to prevent another Diwalwal.

Mindoro floods

In Oriental Mindoro, there had been calls to block Aglubang Mining Corp. and Crew, which also had been wrongly accused of being a cause of the recent floods. As it turned out, abnormally heavy rainfall was the cause, and that was why even neighboring countries had floods as well.

The company has not been mining at all in the area, which used to be a logging concession. The company simply has been getting soil samples to find out if the area has enough nickel worth investing in.

Its activities are limited to using one drill roughly the diameter of a small soft drink bottle to bore into the soil no deeper than 15 meters to get soil samples that had a total weight of only 500 kilograms and were put into 10 rice sacks. No vegetation was removed. No road was built.

Mangyans

This early, the company employs both Mangyans and lowlanders. They are treated equally in terms of everything, including pay. Aglubang Mining has built bridges, provided electricity, and maintained a clinic. Education is a preferred advocacy, so the people can make the right choices.

If and when the company actually goes into operation, the host communities, the province, and the whole economy will all share substantial benefits. Mindoro can easily become one of the richest provinces in the country because of its share from the revenues.

Thousands of people will be employed directly and indirectly, each one being one less OFW longing for home and a better life. That is the promise of local mining and it is there for the taking.

(Gamolo is the general manager of Crew Group Philippines.)

THE CBCP STATEMENT IS sweeping and extreme. This came as a surprise to all of us in the Chamber of Mines and we have not been consulted. If taken for its message, it will have a drastic impact on 3,000 employees of Philex Mining.

I could walk away from all these because I have earned my keep, as I am about to retire. But how about the people to be affected by this massive job displacement if mining projects are cancelled?

What will happen to their families? This should be a lesson to everybody concerned, especially those with the power to influence. The bishops should be very careful with such statements. ***Walter Brown, chair and CEO, Philex Mining Corp.***

'Flagship project' a disaster

By David Duran

A DAY AFTER ALL SOUL'S DAY, MY cousin Willy Flores had two big slices of blue fin marlin fresh from the sea. We had a couple of beers with the rest of the family and then it occurred to me that a week ago my friend and diving buddy Aping Lacdang, the provincial fisheries officer, had showed me a letter seeking an investigation of an alleged toxic spill.

It happened at the mine of Lafayette Philippines Inc. last Oct. 11 on the neighboring island of Rapu-Rapu, which resulted in a fish kill. I wondered whether it was the same place where the blue marlin we just ate came from. I also remembered watching Environment Secretary Michael Defensor on TV saying that the mining project was a flagship project of the government.

How could this toxic spill happen? Are our seas safe?

Together with Mayor Benito Doma of Prieto Diaz town and Lacdang, we approached Sorsogon Vice Gov. Kruni Escudero. The only agency willing to help us test our waters for contamination was the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). It sent a team, which I accompanied, to gather samples for laboratory analysis. While BFAR was collecting samples on Nov. 4, Lafayette announced a second spill of toxic chemicals that happened four days earlier. It caused another fish kill.

When I saw a pail full of rotting marine specimens collected for us by local fishermen, I said to myself: "My God, something is very, very wrong here!" It was a sentiment shared by most of us in the group.

Anxiety

Results of the BFAR analysis did not ease the growing anxiety and apprehension of the public, which soon doubted the safety of fish products from the area. One by one, the people refused to eat, buy, sell, and eventually fish. The fishing industry of the towns of Rapu-Rapu in Albay, and of Prieto Diaz, Gubat and Barcelona in Sorsogon province, and Bacon district of Sorsogon City collapsed.

Who is to blame? The test results? The buying public? The fishermen? The toxic spill? The mining firm? The Mining Act of 1995? The government?

This was supposed to be a flagship project, but where was the flagship response? We were left to our own devices to deal with a problem no provincial entity could handle. We had to make do with government agencies that ignored us and acted like spokepersons of the mining company.

Officials of the Department of Environment and National Resources claimed that the fish kills were minimal, but the effects were catastrophic. Are we to be sacrificed for the pursuit of development and the luster of gold?

The small town of Prieto Diaz has been at the forefront of environmental protection and the corresponding law enforcement. It has received national awards for various environmental programs.

What is there to protect when people avoid its products like the plague? Does the government realize how demoralizing this is for people who painstakingly worked for the protection of the environment against monumental odds? With the spill and the subsequent indifference of the agencies, we thought we should look after our interest. It is time for us to put our act together.

An old fisherman told me that as long as the mine exists, the level of confidence in the fish he and others catch will never be restored. The mine is a threat to the coral reefs that protect our coasts, to the fish in our seas, to the beaches we love, to the *butanding* (whale shark) everybody knows, to the things we cherish, and to our way of life.

(Duran is a councilor of Sorsogon City.)

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Mindanao's 1st call center lacks people

HELLO...?
HELLO?

DAVAO CITY—THE FIRST-EVER call center in Mindanao has yet to fully operate because of lack of manpower, a government official said.

G-Com Ltd., which was supposed to operate full-blast this quarter, is being operated by the US-based Cyber City Teleservices Ltd.

Teololu Pasawa, city trade and industry director, said the company was having a hard time finding "competent individuals" to act as e-Representatives (e-Reps).

"The company is facing hardship in finding workers who have competent skills such as fluency in English and other foreign languages," Teololu said.

He said G-Com has already sought help from the regional trade office for the recruitment of at least 90 agents to fill up its manpower needs.

G-Com needs a total of 175 e-Representatives by the end of the quarter so it could go full-blast in its operations.

James Down, Cyber City service excellence director, said they needed e-Reps who can speak English or Spanish well, have excellent reasoning skills, are friendly, upbeat and courteous.

He said e-Reps that the company would hire should also be computer literate, willing to work on a shifting schedule and should have professional work ethics.

Down said they were not very strict in academic qualifications because any female graduate of a four-year or five-year course could apply. *Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ex-senator drives away farmers from agri land

SILANG, CAVITE—TENSION gripped a small agricultural village here as about 400 armed policemen, security guards and members of a demolition team on Friday tore down the houses of 42 farmer-tenants of a contested 25-hectare property being claimed by former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr.

At about 6:15 a.m. in Barangay Cabangaan, elements of the provincial mobile group of the Cavite police escorted members of the demolition team hired by the former movie actor and politician, whose claim to fame was his portrayal of underdogs in the movies.

"The demolition of our residences was clearly illegal and a violation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law," said Teodoro Garcia, chair of the Samahan ng Magsasaka sa Cabangaan (Samaca).

More than 100 individuals were displaced by the demolition. Most houses were concrete.

"They (the policemen and the demolition team) started to destroy our houses without giving us formal notice. They even failed to show us the demolition order from the court," an angry Garcia told the INQUIRER.

Garcia said the policemen likewise failed to coordinate with local government officials.

He said residents of the community decided not to fight it out with the armed component of the demolition team to avoid bloodshed.

"We would not only be losing our house but we would also get hurt," he said.

Chief Supt. Rodel Sermonia, intelligence chief of the Cavite police, brushed off Garcia's accusations that the operation was unlawful.

"That's stupid. This operation is very elementary. We have all the legal documents to proceed here," Sermonia said.

The 25-hectare land is planted with coffee, pineapple, banana, papaya *palay*, coconut, stringbeans and other crops.

"We are tenants here, not squatters. The property should be under the CARP," Garcia said.
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Peace zone in Tarlac village sought

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—OFFICIALS of Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac, have asked Gov. Jose Yap to draw up a plan to turn the town into a peace zone, following clashes between soldiers and communist rebels there on Tuesday that forced residents to flee.

Mayor Reynaldo Modomo said Yap would visit the villages of Sta. Inez West, East and Centro, the areas where the heavy fighting occurred, on Sunday to assure residents that his primary concern was their safety.

Modomo said the series of clashes between the military and New People's Army rebels instilled fear, if not trauma, among residents of villages in the town.

Yap is a former member of the government panel involved in peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front.

"Sta. Ignacia used to be a very peaceful town; there was no trouble before. But this insurgency problem is beyond our scope. We can't begin a peace initiative because we have not established contacts with the rebels. We might ask Governor Yap to step in," Modomo said in a phone interview on Friday.

He said at least 14 NPA rebels, in 2000, were killed when they clashed with government soldiers in the village of San Vicente.

In Tuesday's three successive clashes in Sta. Ignacia's hilly areas, Modomo said Army officials did not notify the town government to at least help get residents out of harm's way.

He said some 3,000 people who fled the gunfights have begun returning on Thursday.

Modomo said there were no more immediate risks to the residents' lives.

"[But] there's psychological impact, like fear, because they witnessed the battles. Perhaps among children, there's trauma because the battles happened on a school day," Modomo said.

"They have this fear that more encounters would take place," he added.

The mayor said the clashes also disrupted the community service program of more than 100 nursing students from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila.

He said the students witnessed the gunfights and air strikes, and joined residents who were on the run. They left the town as a result of the incidents, he said.

Modomo said he was awaiting information from the police if any of the 10 recovered bodies of the slain rebels belonged to a civilian.

The human rights advocate group Karapatan reported three civilians among the fatalities. The group identified them as Allan Ibasan, Dante Salgado and William Santos (not Allan as earlier reported). The military maintained that they were rebels.

The Tarlac villagers were put in the same situation as villagers of a Quezon town that also became a battlefield of government soldiers and communist guerrillas recently. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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11th Joint PSH-PLS Convention

Clinical application of new advances in hypertension and dyslipidemia

New developments in hypertension and cholesterol problems or dyslipidemia, which are the major risk factors that cause heart attacks and strokes in the country, will be the major focus of discussion during the 11th Joint Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH) and Philippine Lipid Society (PLS)

The convention is organized in cooperation with 22 of the country's top medical societies and professional health organizations

The theme of the three-day convention is *"Bridging the Gap Between the Science and Clinical Practice in the Management of Hypertension and Dyslipidemia"* It tackles the latest advances in the management of hypertension and dyslipidemia and its prevention in a well-prepared scientific program consisting of three plenary lectures, 11 simultaneous symposia, 10 satellite lunch and dinner symposia, a grand debate on the metabolic syndrome, a preconvention workshop on essential figures and normal values which all practicing doctors should know, and an interactive lay forum. Original and unpublished research works on hypertension and dyslipidemia, some of which have been supported by the PSH and PLS, will be presented in poster sessions daily

More than 50 lectures by the country's leading experts on hypertension, dyslipidemia and the metabolic syndrome will be delivered in what promises to be a very informative meeting of the country's medical practitioners and healthcare professionals who treat patients with hypertension and dyslipidemia

The finalists of the *PSH-Therapharma Yolando Q.M Sulit Young Investigator's Award* and the *PLS-Pfizer Research Award* will also be presented and the winners announced. During the closing ceremonies, nine members who have completed all requirements and passed the qualifying exams will be conferred the title of *Hypertension Specialist*

Based on the number of pre-registered delegates, more than 1,500 are expected to attend the convention which has become a melting pot of various medical specialists (cardiologists, endocrinologists, diabetologists, nephrologists, neurologists, general internists, family physicians, nutritionists, etc.) who are all involved in treating the complex problems which hypertension and dyslipidemia cause

Dr. Nelson S. Abelardo, PSH president and *Dr. Mary Anne Lim Abrahan*, PLS president, said the problems posed by hypertension and dyslipidemia are getting bigger and more complex. They recommend that the best way to address the problem is through a holistic and comprehensive approach

Dr. Esperanza I. Cabral, overall chairperson of the organizing committee, said there are numerous developments and advances in the fields of hypertension and lipidology that can help medical professionals in the effort to manage, control and prevent hypertension and dyslipidemia.

For convention inquiries and registration, interested physicians and healthcare professionals may call the *PSH-PLS Secretariat* at *631-7970* or *687-7073*. Registration on-site will be accommodated but delegates are advised to register beforehand to avoid the long queue on opening day

PLENARY LECTURES:

HYPERTENSION AND DYSLIPIDEMIA: ARE THEY JUST NUMBERS?
Romeo Divinagracia, M.D.

VISCERAL FAT IN TYPE 2 DIABETES MELLITUS, DYSLIPIDEMIA AND CVD
Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan, M.D.

CARDIOVASCULAR RISK MANAGEMENT IN WOMEN: BETTER LATE THAN NEVER
Esperanza Cabral, M.D.

Program:

February 05, 2006 (Sunday)
1:00 – 5:00 PM LAY FORUM
High Blood, Diabetes at Cholesterol: Magtanong Sa Mga Dalubhasa

February 08, 2006 (Wednesday)
1:00 – 5:00 PM : PRE-CONVENTION
"Arithmetic" for Doctors
- Assessing Risk Through Body Measurement
- Food Based Diet Prescription for Management of Hypertension and Dyslipidemia
- Estimating Biological Indices for Health and Diseases
- (TBA - on Virgin Coconut Oil)

February 09, 2006 (Thursday)
7:30 - 5:00 PM REGISTRATION
9:00 - 9:45 AM OPENING CEREMONIES / OPENING OF EXHIBITS
10:00 - 11:00 AM PLENARY SESSION 1 *(Isla Ballroom)*
Are Dyslipidemia and Hypertension More Than Just Numbers
11:00 - 12:00 NN 2006 PLS-PFIZER RESEARCH AWARD *(Isla Ballroom)*
12:00 - 1:30 PM LUNCH SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM
MSD *(Isla 1)*
FOURNIER /SOLVAY *(Isla 2)*
PFIZER *(Isla)*
MERCK, INC. *(Palawan)*
2:00 - 3:30 PM DIABETIC CVD: THE 21ST CENTURY PLAGUE *(Isla 2)*
- Lipid Targets for CHD and Diabetes
- Impact of the Diabetes on the Vascular Wall, New Cellular Targets for Treatment
- Is There a Role for Glucose in Diabetic Cardiovascular Disease?

2:00 - 3:30 PM CLINICAL PERSPECTIVE IN DYSLIPIDEMIA *(Isla 3)*
- Guidelines and Equity
- Guidelines in the Management of Dyslipidemia
- Decision Aids in the Management of Dyslipidemia

4:00 - 6:00 PM OPTIMIZING STROKE MANAGEMENT *(Isla 1)*
- BP, Cholesterol, Blood Sugar and Stroke: How Low is Low?
- Triglycerides and the Metabolic Syndrome: How Strong are the Association with Stroke?
- Update on the Management of Extracranial and Intracranial Stenosis

4:00 - 6:00 PM LATE BREAKING TRIALS *(Isla 3)*
- FIELD (Fenofibrate Intervention and Event Lowering in Diabetes) Study
- PROactive (PROspective pioglitAzone Clinical Trial in macroVascular Events
- GEMINI (Glycemic Effects in Diabetes Mellitus: Carvedilol-Metoprolol Comparison in Hypertensive Trial)
- ARBITER (Arterial Biology for the Investigation of the Treatment Effects of Reducing cholesterol) Study

6:00 - 7:00 PM DINNER SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM
THERAPHARMA *(Isla 2)*

February 10, 2006 (Friday)
8:15 - 9:45 AM PRESENTATION OF THE PSH AND PLS SUPPORTED RESEARCH WORKS *(Isla Ballroom)*
10:00 - 11:00 AM PLENARY SESSION 2 *(Isla Ballroom)*
Visceral Fat: An Underlying Basis for Dyslipidemia, Diabetes and CVD
11:15 - 12:00 NN : 2006 PSH-THERAPHARMA YOLANDO Q.M. SULIT YOUNG INVESTIGATOR'S AWARD *(Isla Ballroom)*
12:00 - 1:45 PM LUNCH SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM
SCHERING PLOUGH *(Isla 1)*
PFIZER *(Isla 2)*
THERAPHARMA *(Isla 3)*
SANOFI - AVENTIS *(Palawan)*
2:00 - 3:45 PM THE ROLE OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF HYPERTENSION AND DYSLIPIDEMIA *(Isla 1)*
2:00 - 3:45 PM BURNING ISSUES IN HYPERTENSION *(Isla 3)*
- In Hypertension, Does RAAS Blockade Really Matter Much, or is it all BP Reduction?
- Is there such a Thing as Class-Effect of Antihypertensive & Lipid Lowering Drugs?
- Should white-coat hypertension be Treated?

4:00 - 5:45 PM THE METABOLIC LINK *(Isla 1)*
- Adipocytokines, Free Fatty Acids & Cardiovascular Risk Factors
- Nutritional Approach in the Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease: Omega III Fatty Acid & Other Food Supplements - Is it Effective?
- Lifestyle Prevention in the Treatment and Prevention of Dyslipidemia & Hypertension

4:00 - 5:45 PM CARDIOVASCULAR PROGRAM IN THE WORKPLACE *(Isla 3)*
- Workers Advocacy Program on CVD
- Programs on CVD
- Marketing Your CVD Programs Among Workers

February 10, 2006 (Friday)
8:00 - 8:30 AM PSH BUSINESS MEETING *(Palawan)*
8:30 - 9:00 AM PLS BUSINESS MEETING *(Palawan)*
9:00 - 9:45 AM PLENARY SESSION 3 *(Isla Ballroom)*
Cardiovascular Risk-Management in Women: Better Late than Never
10:00 - 12:00 NN METABOLIC SYNDROME: A DEADLY CLUSTER *(Isla 1)*
- Metabolic Syndrome and Microalbuminuria
- Metabolic Syndrome and Chronic Kidney Disease
- Obesity Related Glomerulopathy: A Growing Epidemic

10:00 - 12:00 NN THE MICRO-CIRCULATION & SURGERY IN HYPERTENSION *(Isla 3)*
- Microcirculation: Key to Early Diagnosis of Hypertension
- Surgical Approaches to Hypertension
- Hemorheology as Treatment Strategy for Hypertension: Looking Forward or Looking Back?

12:00 - 1:45 PM LUNCH SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM
THERAPHARMA *(Isla 1)*
PFIZER *(Isla 2 & 3)*
2:00 - 3:45 PM BP CERTIFICATION CLASS *(Isla 1)*
2:00 - 3:45 PM DEBATE "THE HEAT IS ON. . . METABOLIC SYNDROME . . . IS THE WHOLE GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS *(Isla 2 & 3)*
4:00 - 6:00 PM CONTROVERSIES IN LIPIDOLOGY *(Isla 3)*
- CRP versus LDL Cholesterol - Better Predictor of CVD
- Management of Diabetic Dyslipidemia - Statins versus Fibrate
- Metabolic Syndrome: A Real Syndrome or a Cluster of Risk Factors?

6:00 - 7:00 PM CLOSING CEREMONIES and INDUCTION OF HYPERTENSION SPECIALISTS *(Isla Ballroom)*

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Chef Russel Encarnacion underwent culinary training program at the Pizza Express, Manchester, England.
Chef Chris Bautista is the Executive Chef of Gourdo's Cafe at The Fort. He honed his skills at the prestigious Ritz Hotel in Paris, France.

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INQUIRER Mindanao
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GenSan City dreams of boxing greats

By Aquiles Zonio
General Santos City

SINCE THE 1970S, GENERAL SANTOS, THE southern port city once known as Dadiangas, has been home to many boxing champions, the most popular among them two-time world champion and current World Boxing Council (WBC) super featherweight king Manny Pacquiao.

Another is Rolando Navarrete, who ended the drought in the country's search for a world boxing title in 1981 when he knocked out Cornellius Boza Edwards, the WBC junior lightweight champion, in the third round.

Navarrete became an instant celebrity, but later earned the moniker "Bad Boy from Dadiangas" for his wayward tendencies. He successfully defended his crown twice, but not long after, he fell from grace due to his career miscues and extravagant lifestyle.

When he lost his title, he was abandoned by his fans, even his wives.

The late Andy Balaba, Philippine flyweight titleholder, was not as lucky as Navarrete. In 1982, in a failed bid to capture the world flyweight crown, Balaba died from brain injuries inflicted during a fight with a Korean champion.

Despite the misfortunes of the boxers, many youngsters, most of them coming from poor families, wanted to follow in their footsteps.

Many failed, some succeeded. Aside from Pacquiao, General Santos' favorite sons who did well in their boxing careers include Bernie Torres, World Boxing Organization junior bantamweight champion; Abner Cordero, WBC international bantamweight champion; and Zarlit Rodrigo, WBC international mini-flyweight champion.

Once a boxing haven

There were times when General Santos served as a haven for both amateur and professional boxers. In the 1970s, boxing had become so popular in the city that many boxing stables sprouted and that almost every month, big boxing tournaments were held.

It was during this time when the Bernabe Coliseum, then considered Mindanao's first modern stadium, was built to cater to the growing number of boxing tourneys staged in the city.

The lull in boxing history occurred only in the late 1990s when the husband of a politician took the helm of the local chapter of Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap).

Continuing program

Adriano "Rey" Golingan, the chapter chair, said that for several decades, the city had consistently embarked on a boxing program to discover young talents from the grassroots.

Golingan recalled that Cordero, Rodrigo and even Pacquiao were products of the Abap-sponsored "Boxing at the Park," a tournament held every weekend at the oval plaza. The competition, now dubbed the "Pa-boksing Alang sa Kabataan" is a joint project of Abap and the city government.

TRAINER Dexter Benatero teaches one of the 10 amateur boxers here how to work on the punching bag.
AQUILES ZONIO

Golingan, himself an aficionado, put up the Manny Pacquiao Memorial Gym last year, using his own money and resources.

The Abap official claimed that the gym was named after Pacquiao as a tribute to his feat in bringing honor and pride to the city and the country.

Since construction of the facility began, the Filipino ring icon has not contributed even a single centavo for its maintenance or for support to the fearless boys who dream of becoming future Pacquiaos.

10 in-house trainees

The gym is maintained by two trainers—Rodrigo and Dexter Benatero—who are both accomplished boxers.

Benatero was once the top Philippine flyweight contender and Pacquiao's contemporary.

At present, 10 in-house amateur boxers in different weight categories train daily at the gym.

Golingan is shouldering expenses for food of the boxers, while the city government pays the monthly salary of the trainers.

The Abap chair was grateful that generous businessmen, like Paul Dominguez of Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) and Rudy Rivera of the RD Group of Companies, extended help to the boxers.

Through the continuing boxing program, Golingan is hopeful that the city will again produce another world-class fighter.

Promising boxers

Among the 10 amateur boxers training hard at the Pacquiao Gym is 12-year-old Rolando Navarrete Jr. and Sadam Barambangan, 15, a former "Batang Tun-og" (street child)."

Navarrete Jr., the former champion's son by his fourth wife Liza Ayod, won his first fight on Jan. 15 during a tournament in time for the fiesta celebration of Senior Sto. Niño in Bula village.

Roberto Navarrete, his uncle, said the boy was staying with his other uncle Romeo, a retired Coast Guard official.

The boy, who joined the training pool at the gym just a month ago, was a stowaway. His paternal grandfather fetched him from his mother's house in Koronadal City and brought back to General Santos to train in boxing. The boy is determined to follow in the footsteps of his idol Pacquiao.

His uncle revealed that Navarrete had once seen the boy training in the gym when he dropped by. But the uncles didn't want the young boxer to stay with his father. Instead, they wanted him to grow up a disciplined fighter.

Former street kid

Barambangan said he used to be with a group of street children, but Rodrigo convinced him to become a boxer.

Despite the hardships in training, Barambangan, already a local champion in the 36-kilogram category, was happy he left the life of a vagabond.

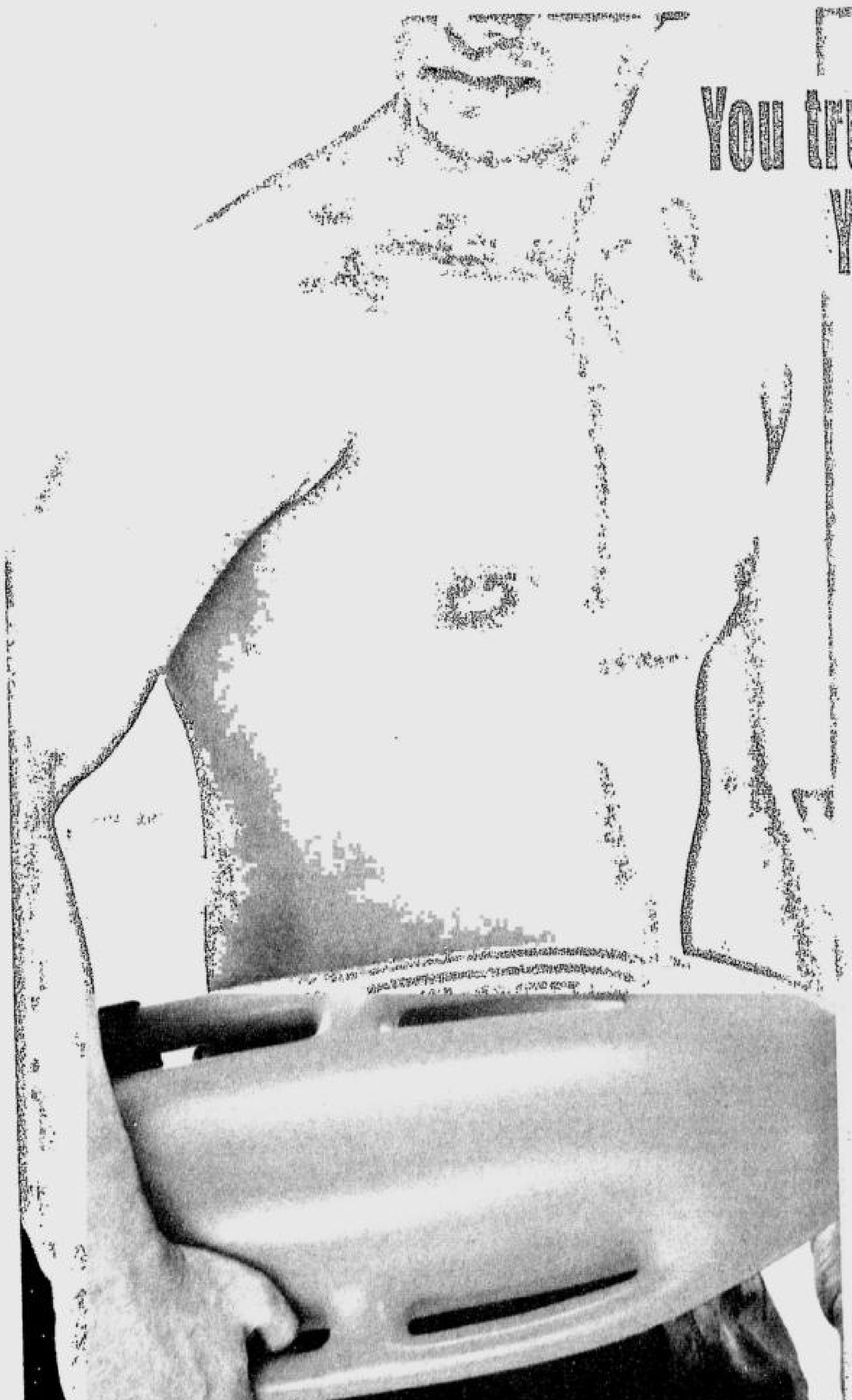
Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr., a boxing fan, said that "if we [don't] start developing young boxing talents, who will replace Manny?"

He agreed that among other sports, it is only in boxing that the Filipinos can have a big chance of becoming world champions.

He believed that the city managed to produce several champions because of its consistent program and the local residents' passion for the sport.

"The city has been a boxing haven for several decades. Through this, the people have developed a strong passion for boxing. This was complemented by our continuing program to discover young boxing talents on the grassroots level," Acharon said.

Many people, particularly those from poor families, see boxing as a way out of smothering poverty, the mayor said.



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Loud music drowned out cries for help

From page A1

Various witnesses recalled hearing someone shouting about a bomb—*"Bomba! Bomba!"*—at around 6:30 a.m. and sending the crowd into a panic.

Others said the crowd was simply enraged when the guards decided to close the gates at around that time to regulate the flow of people. By then, the arena itself was packed.

Although the rush caused bone-crushing commotions across the whole stretch of Javier Street, most of the bodies were recovered at the LRP Gate.

The three-meter-high steel gate opens to a six-meter-wide driveway. The gate opens inward, and the driveway is inclined by about 30 degrees downward from the main road.

Juner Empelina, one of the sentries on duty from the Kemen Security Agency, said the push of the crowd was so strong that it tore the ropes that held the gates shut.

Another guard, Roderick Diaz, pointed to a bar in the steel gate that had been bent loose. He said his blue tie and his nightstick were ripped off his body in the commotion.

"We were asking them to back off and be calm because eventually they would all be allowed to enter, anyway. But they wouldn't listen," said Empelina.

At 5 a.m.

Security guards and survivors said the crowd started to get wild at about 5 a.m., with people clamoring to get in.

Slowly, the people were allowed entry through the three gates.

But when the guards announced that only 17,000 people would be allowed in and given tickets, all hell broke loose, recalled Vilma Catabang, 40, who had brought her two children.

Per the authorities' estimate, at least 50,000 people queued in front of the gates. Some were there as early as Monday night and slept on the street.

But the arena itself can hold only 9,000 people, while only 8,000 can be accommodated in the football field outside, where ABS-CBN had set up a wide screen.

The tickets were to be raffled off to choose contestants for the games.

"People started pushing those who were in front of the line," Catabang said.

The compound is hilly, and the guards at the LRP Gate, which slopes downward, tried to control the crowd by opening it only halfway.

But the people started pushing the gate until it gave way at about 6:45 a.m.

Domino effect

The crowd rushed inside, many sliding on the slope, causing a "domino effect," outgoing Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes said later at a press conference.

As more and more people got in, some stepped on and walked atop the others. Children and their mothers, even grandmothers, were pinned to the railings and the ground.

Those at the far end kept on pushing, unaware that those in front were being trampled on.

Marissa Graboso, 35, said she and the others had no idea that some people, mostly elderly women, were dying in front of the queue.

"They were lifting people who we thought had just collapsed," she said. "But we did not take them seriously because some people had pretended to be fainting just to get ahead of the line."

Ex-seaman Neildrin Catubig was very near the gate when it gave way and an estimated 15,000 throng tried to rush its way through.

"The guards should have just opened the gates and let the people in," he said.

Catubig denied that it was the *"Bomba! Bomba!"* warning that caused the rush.

He said that at around 6 a.m., the show staff announced that it would begin letting people in. It was this announcement that caused the crowd to start jostling for position in order to be among the first 300 inside the arena.

First come, first served

Alberto Herrera, whose 78-year-old mother Arsenia died in the tragedy, said they had been told that tickets to the anniversary show were to be distributed at 6 a.m.

But nothing happened, and close to an hour later, the crowd grew impatient and moved toward the gate.

As early as Saturday last week, Herrera and his mother had been dropping in at the arena in the hope of getting tickets. On Monday, they decided to join the others who had started camping outside.

"It was a first-come-first-served basis. We wanted to enter the gate first so we could have those tickets," he said, adding that they had brought food and clothes to last them until the show.

But since they were told that the tickets would be given out at 6 a.m. yesterday, they spent Friday night at their home in Malibay, Pasay City, and returned at around 5:30 a.m. yesterday.

Melvin Salazar of Dagat-dagatan, Caloocan City, who also lost his mother Rosalina, said that when the gates were opened, the crowd madly rushed forward, pinning others to the railings that show organizers had installed for the purpose of ensuring an orderly queue.

He said some clambered up the arena's waiting shed but they fell to the ground when a portion of the roof gave in. *Reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Volt Contreras, Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Jocelyn R. Uy, Norman Bordadora*

THE ANXIOUS FACES of relatives wait for news at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City where hundreds of injured were brought, many of them elderly women.

REM ZOMORA

THE DAY BEFORE THE FALL. On Friday, the day before the show, people already swamped the Philippine Sports Commission (formerly Ultra) to line up for free tickets. Man with a bullhorn tried to keep order.

RAFFY LERMA

'My guards did their best; I'm proud of them'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ABS-CBN NETWORK PROMISED last night its full cooperation in the investigation of the stampede that killed scores of people.

"We will cooperate fully with whatever investigation the government will undertake," ABS-CBN chair Gabby Lopez said in a press conference 12 hours after the tragedy.

Rene Luspo, head of the network's security group, maintained that it had put up an "adequate security plan" for the first-anniversary celebration of its noontime show "Wowowee."

Luspo said that while the ABS-CBN Security Group had "anticipated" the crowd to be "unruly," it was "more than what we expected."

"We thought we had done all that was humanly possible [to secure the program]," he said.

Luspo said at least 100 ABS-CBN security guards were deployed, reinforced by 60 security guards of the Philsports complex, policemen, traffic enforcers, and at least 20 watchmen from two barangays.

"My guards did their best. I am proud of my boys," he said.

Steel railings

Luspo also said steel barriers had been erected in front of the LRP Gate of the complex going to the bleachers as "a first line of defense."

But those who had lined up in front of the gate became wild and managed to push the railings even though these were manned by security guards, he said.

"That was the first incident," he said. "But we managed to control the crowd after that."

However, Luspo said, the crowd started pushing the main gate of the entrance.

This time, the gate gave way, sending the people tumbling down the slope and trampling on others, with many elderly women ending up dead.

Medical, funeral expenses

While police had put the death toll at 79, ABS-CBN Foundation head Tina Monzon-Palma said the network had monitored 70 dead.

Palma said the network would shoulder the medical and funeral expenses of the injured and the dead.

She said that 276 people were admitted at the Rizal Medical Center, 260 of whom had been discharged, and that 150 people were admitted at the Medical City, where 10 remained under treatment.

The 49 people brought to the Pasig City General Hospital have all been discharged, Palma added.

Reacting to reports that the crowd went wild when told that only 17,000 would be allowed to enter, "Wowowee" production manager Alou Almaden said the limitation was announced as early as Friday midnight.

"We were prioritizing those who had lined up days ago, who were mostly women and children. Those who lined up just yesterday were mostly men," she said.

GMA AT SCENE OF TRAGEDY: President Arroyo comforts the wounded at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City.

LYN RILLON

TV rivalry, politics cast aside . . .

From page A1

ABS-CBN said thanks to Bulaga.

The tragedy pulled together bitter protagonists in the network wars. More significant, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro coordinated efforts with the Lopez-owned ABS-CBN to help the victims and those they left behind. Yesterday, Ms Arroyo and De Castro were clearly on top of the situation.

De Castro, whose long-running public affairs program Magandang Gabi, Bayan was axed by ABS-CBN last month was seen conferring with network chair Eugenio Lopez III at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City where many of those injured in the stampede were brought.

The cancellation of the De Castro-produced show was allegedly prompted by the Vice President's refusal to break away from Ms Arroyo. ABS-CBN had denied the allegation.

Later, President Arroyo herself arrived to check on the wounded and to sympathize with the bereaved.

The government and ABS-CBN were cooperating in the effort to find out exactly what happened, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes announced at a press conference yesterday afternoon.

"The management of ABS-CBN has announced that it will shoulder all the medical expenses of those injured and the funeral costs of those who died in the incident," De Castro announced to the media at the Rizal Medical Center. Later, De Castro said government would concentrate on the investigation of the tragedy. With Willie Revillame, De Castro asked for understanding for ABS-CBN.

"Kabayan immediately went (to the Ultra and to the RMC) as Vice President to look into what needs to be done," lawyer Jesse Andres, De Castro's chief of staff, said in an interview.

Andres, however, said that De Castro merely reiterated what ABS-CBN vice president for entertainment had earlier announced.

It was De Castro who first called up Wowowee host Willie Revillame to inform him about the stampede. Revillame had told the Ultra crowd that stayed to wait for an announcement of whether his 1st anniversary show was going to be on. (It was postponed.)

"Politics has been set aside," Andres added.

Ironically, De Castro sounded not unlike the spokesperson of the giant TV network that is generally perceived to have dumped him.

With the network for almost 20 years, he had once been perceived as an ABS-CBN lackey in the government until recent political developments soured his relations with the Lopez family.

"(With that out of the way) our role here is to find out what really happened that caused the stampede," the Vice President added, stressing the investigation was underway.

Lopez, on the other hand, appeared to have no trouble dealing with De Castro and acting presidential chief of staff Mike Defensor, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz and Health Secretary Francisco Duque.

Roots of dissension

The Lopez family controls both ABS-CBN and Meralco, the power distribution firm that the government reportedly plans to take over in a bid to reduce electricity costs.

Last month, the INQUIRER reported that a takeover of Meralco was one of the options presented to President Arroyo to settle a long-standing dispute between the National Power Corp. and Meralco concerning P42-billion Meralco reportedly owed the state-owned power generator.

De Castro's statements were interpreted to be supportive of the government takeover plan of Meralco.

RP still open to mining, Palace tells investors

From page A1

the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to suspend new mining permits covered only projects in Albay province, the site of the recent Rapu Rapu mine disaster.

"The President supports new investments from responsible mining companies because her administration is both pro-environment and pro-growth," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

The CBCP, which represents the Church hierarchy, rattled big business last week when it issued a pastoral letter demanding that President Macapagal-Arroyo repeal the Mining Act of 1995 opening the mining sector to investments, cancel all approved mining concessions and suspend pending applications.

The INQUIRER reported yesterday that Malacañang had offered to suspend all new mining permits temporarily while the government and Church leaders agree on a more rigid screening process for mine applications.

Mine industry executives sharply criticized the offer, saying it would make the Philippines a pariah in the foreign investment community, and displace two million workers along with some eight million dependents.

For Albay only

Chief of Staff Michael Defensor explained that the statement he had made in Bicol regarding the moratorium on mining permits only covered Albay province.

"The new management of Lafayette [the operators of the Rapu Rapu mine] has committed to fund an independent commission to be selected by the bishops to determine the extent of the problem," Defensor said.

Defensor assured the CBCP that the government would adopt a "fool-proof" system in processing mining applications to ensure the protection of local communities, especially indigenous Filipinos.

This was the best the government could do to address the CBCP's concerns, he said.

"The request for the repeal of the Mining Act has legal and economic implications that we have to study. The policy is the law and we cannot elude that. Any amendments to the law should be coursed through Congress," he said.

In defense of mining

The Palace also stepped up its defense of the mining industry whose recent revival the President expects to bring jobs and made a dent on widespread poverty.

The government expects a turnover of about $5 billion from the mining sector in 2006.

It is aiming for $1.5 billion in new mining investments this year and $6.5 billion over the next five years.

"We believe that the mining sector can be a force for good in many areas throughout our country. Responsible mining companies are a catalyst for economic development in some of the most remote parts of the country," Bunye said.

"Their projects provide much-needed employment for tens of thousands of our rural countrymen, tax revenues that support education, health care and other social services, and modern infrastructure that benefits all sectors in our rural economies."

Bunye said the Arroyo administration shared the bishops' concern for a clean, healthy environment as well as their call to "reduce any negative impact from mining projects."

Assurance

"I want to assure the CBCP and the people of the Philippines that we will continue to closely monitor all mining projects and will only approve new projects with those companies who agree to work with government at all levels," he said.

Bunye said the government has also encouraged the holding of "open, transparent public meetings to include stakeholders from local communities, including religious and civic leaders" that would discuss the entry of new mining ventures.

Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes, who has been designated the CBCP spokesperson on the issue of mining, said they were holding the President to her promise not to approve any more mining permits, which she made during a dialog in Malacañang recently.

"The President must make good her promise because we were sincere in our intentions when we met with her," said the prelate.

In Gen. Santos City, leaders of the B'laan tribal communities said the indigenous communities welcomed mining and told the bishops to leave them alone.

Not evil

"We believe mining is not evil if it helps improve the living condition of tribal residents in the project area," said a statement signed by five tribal chieftains.

The CBCP call for a mining ban would affect 24 priority mining projects, including that of the Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) in the boundaries of Sultan Kudarat, Davao del Sur and South Cotabato where the communities live.

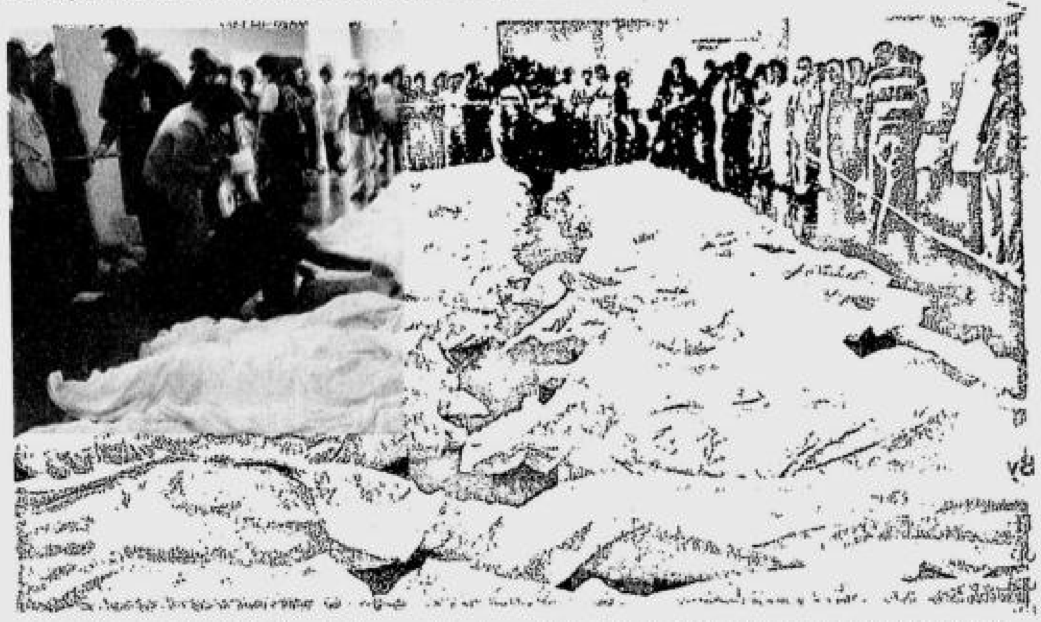
The bishops said the Mining Act posed a danger to the existence of indigenous communities.

The tribal leaders said the CBCP demand did not reflect the sentiments of the tribespeople living in the mining areas. They said the entry of SMI had done a lot to improve the lives of their people.

They told the CBCP to respect their right to decide for themselves and give them a chance to chart their own destiny.

"If we are going to follow what the bishops wanted, we stand to lose the rare chance of improving our lives. Stripping us of such rights is akin to robbing us, especially our children, of a brighter future. Giving in to what the bishops want for the Tampakan copper project would violate our rights to develop," the tribal leaders said. *With a report from Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

REMAINS TO BE SEEN: Umbrellas, jackets, handbags, thermos, lunch boxes, blankets and other personal effects of the dead and the injured indicated they had planned to tough it out for days in all kinds of weather to get into the game show. JOAN BONDOC



SHROUD OF DEATH: The victims are lined up at the Medical City hospital lobby on Ortigas Avenue before they were transferred to funeral homes. The unidentified bodies were brought to the Arlington Funeral Center in Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

Noli, Willie: Tragedy showed extent of RP poverty

By Cynthia D. Balana

TELEVISION HOST WILLIE REVILLAME and Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday said the tragedy that marked the first anniversary celebration of the show "Wowowee" showed the extent of poverty in the Philippines.

Revillame, who was weeping when interviewed on radio, said poor people were trooping to watch the show in the hope of winning the prizes it was offering.

"I did not expect this to happen because all I want to do is make people happy," he said in Filipino. "My program is for the people; I'm only the host. This is where we will see how hard our life is. The ones who queue to get in are those who are impoverished. The others wear only slippers. But they are all welcome."

Revillame said about 3,000 to 5,000 people would usually line up at the ABS-CBN compound in Quezon City to watch the show.

"Wowowee is running because of the people it has helped," he said. "And we can see that they are really hard-up."

He said he had been informed that among those who went to the Philsports Arena for the show's first-anniversary show had come from as far as Aparri, Cagayan, and that residents in one barrio had to pool their resources to pay for the vehicles they used in going to Pasig City.

De Castro said it was normal for poor people to be the first to fall in line for shows giving out prizes.

The Vice President said the tragedy was an eye-opener and a "good lesson" for both the ABS-CBN management and government authorities.

He said he had advised officials of the Metro Manila Development Authority to also consider the welfare of the people, and not just the potential traffic problem, in occasions like the first-anniversary show of "Wowowee."

Wowowee: Entertainment, hope …

From page A1

consolation prizes for losing contestants in games like "Willie of Fortune" and "Bigatin."

In an interview with INQUIRER Entertainment before the show was launched last year, Revillame said "Wowowee" was envisioned to be a source of hope and money for the poor.

"We will do our best to make the contestants win," he said. "That's why our questions are all give-away questions."

Asked why ABS-CBN produced shows that encouraged mendicancy and dependency on dole outs, ABS- CBN vice president for entertainment Charo Santos-Concio said that the show was meant to entertain and to give hope to the people.

"The reality today is that there are plenty among our countrymen who are poor," she said in Filipino. "We only want to give them hope. We're all human, and I think most of us have tried our luck in games of chance. But we are not encouraging mendicancy."

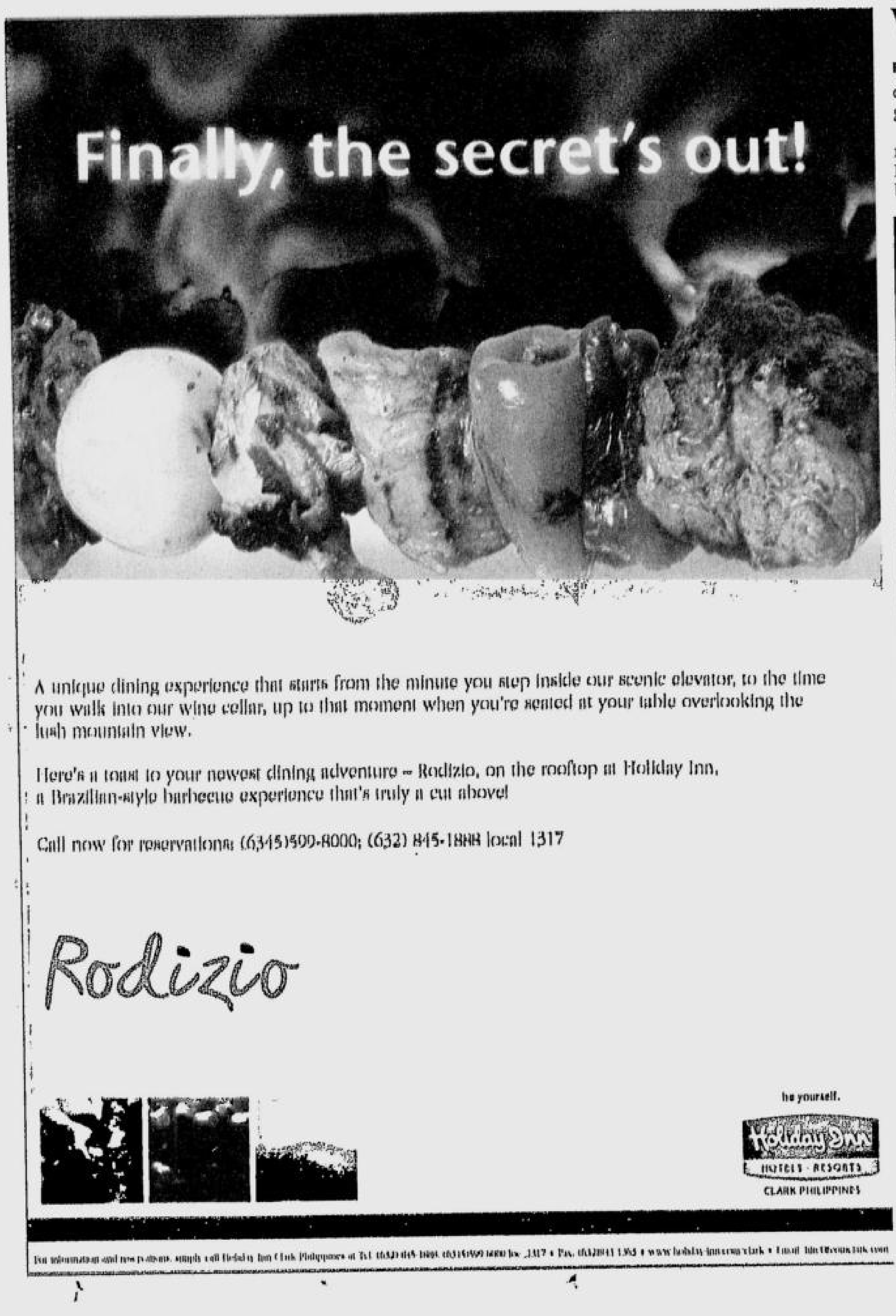
Tina Monson Palma, who heads ABS-CBN Foundation, said part of the donations from sponsors were given to Non-government organizations like Bantay Bata.

"A lot of people have expressed their desire to help," she said in Filipino, "They want to give money to certain organizations. You can check with the NGO's (for an accounting of these donations."

"Wowowee" replaced the variety show "MTB…Ang Saya-Saya," which was hosted by Edu Manzano and Ai-Ai de las Alas.

It has been drawing thousands of people to the ABS-CBN headquarters in Quezon City.

The show, however, has not surpassed the ratings of "Eat Bulaga," aired on the same time slot on rival network GMA 7, in terms of share of viewers.



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Name of Contract	Proposed Construction of Daanbantayan Roro Port
Location	Maya, Daanbantayan, Cebu
Brief Description	Construction of Roll-On-Roll-Off Port
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Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	February 6 & 13, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	February 6-13, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	February 13, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	February 16, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	February 20, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	February 22, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	March 7, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 416-5400 local 110.

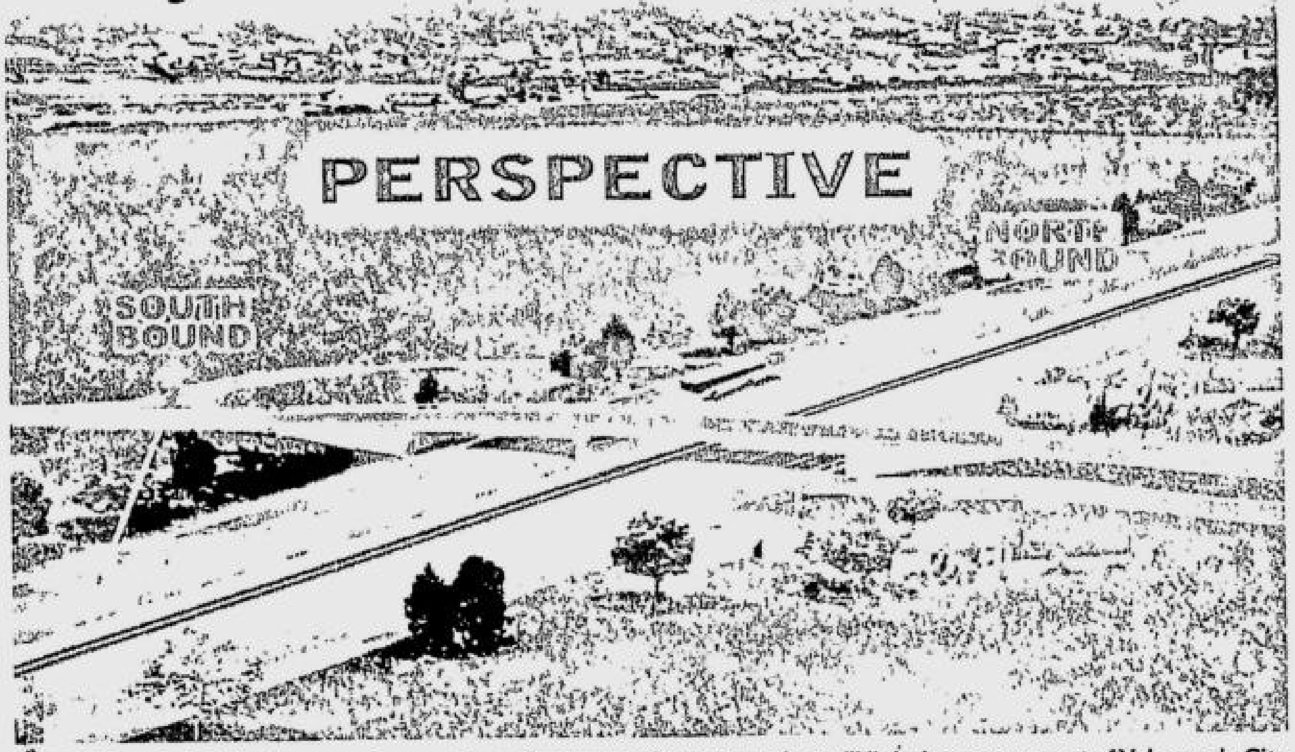
The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications only to bidder's declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
Chairman

(PDI-Feb 6 & 13, 2006)

Bayanihan spirit alive in Valenzuela



A SCALE model of the Lingunan-Lawang Bato Canumay exit overpass that will link the eastern part of Valenzuela City to the western portion. The overpass, which is expected to be completed in mid-2006, is being built without any assistance from the national government.

By Nancy C. Carvajal

WHEN THE LINGUNAN-LAWANG BATO CANumay exit overpass opens in July, residents in Valenzuela City can refer to it as a concrete example, literally, of what local leaders can do, when they agree to work together.

Not a single centavo for the P102 million project, which will serve as a bridge between the eastern and western parts of the city currently separated by the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx), came from the national government.

"The overpass is 100 percent locally funded and not a single cent came from any foreign loan or the national government," Valenzuela City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian said during the groundbreaking ceremony held last month.

Major infrastructure projects like overpasses are usually funded by the national government through the Department of Public Works and Highways.

To come up with the money for the project, leaders of the city's 32 barangays agreed to give up their allocation from the local government's Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) last year.

"All barangay leaders agreed to forgo local projects in 2005 so construction of the bridge could start," said Alvin Feliciano, barangay chair of Arkong Bato.

He added of the P102 million needed for the overpass, P80 million came from the IRA of the city's 32 barangays.

To come up with rest of the money, the Valenzuela government borrowed from a local bank, according to Marither Menia, the city's press information officer.

Private landowners also got into the act, according to Gatchalian, giving up part of their property for the project.

"Without their cooperation, the project could have been delayed," he said.

Project engineer Fortune Angeles, who also heads the City Planning Office, said some willingly gave up their property.

"The family of Emilia Santiago donated almost half of their 1.8 hectares of land," Angeles said.

Others, however, had to be convinced, including owners of residential apartments, a gasoline station and several restaurants.

"It took us months to convince the owners to sell their land to the local government," said Angeles.

The government ended up paying P3,000 per sq. m. to property owners while others asked that they simply be relocated elsewhere.

The overpass will pass through 7.3 hectares of commercial and privately-owned land. It will begin from F. Dulalia Street in Barangay Lingunan, go across the NLEx, and end on Sapang Bakaw Road in Lawang Bato.

Once completed, it is expected to reduce travel time in going to and from the eastern and western parts of the city.

"Like old times, it will again be faster to go to the other side, but instead of crossing a mountain, it will be a bridge which is solely ours," Gatchalian said.

Just like the NLEx, the overpass will have six lanes, three each for the northbound and southbound lanes. It will also be as wide as the expressway.

Right now, motorists in the western part of Valenzuela have to pass through the traffic-prone Maysan Road, and the Malinta interchange along the expressway, to get to the other side of the city.

If traffic is light, the trip should take less than an hour. Ordinarily, however, it takes one-and-a-half hours to cross to the other side.

With the completion of the overpass in July, traffic is expected to be reduced by 30 percent on Maysan Road, which would hopefully also improve traffic flow in surrounding areas.

Gatchalian said the overpass is also envisioned to open up new areas to development and spur economic growth in the city.

But more importantly, the project has opened the eyes of Valenzuela residents to the possibilities of what can be achieved when people get together and buckle down to work.

MMDA goes after households tapping power from traffic lights

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELopment Authority (MMDA) has begun a crackdown on households that source their electricity from the agency's traffic lights.

A composite team of operatives from the MMDA, the Manila Electric Co., (Meralco), and the police conducted several operations last month, cutting illegal power connections to traffic lights in four cities.

"We have been operating continuously, removing tapped lines upon discovery. But this is our first operation to remove a bulk of reported illegal connections... There was a significant number of households found tapping into our lines," said Ramon Ona, chief engineer of the MMDA Traffic Engineering Center (TEC).

The TEC, which spearheaded the operations, said in a report that the team cut illegally tapped lines in four residential areas near major Metro Manila intersections.

These included a compound of shanties at the corner of Pablo Ocampo Extension (formerly Vito Cruz) and Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo) in Makati City, where Ona said the team counted dozens of houses connected illegally to a nearby traffic light.

On Jan. 20, the team also cut the illegal electrical connections of households at the corner of C-4 Road and Dagat-Dagatan Avenue in Malabon, the R10 Road and Zaragosa Street in Tondo, Manila, and on E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard corner Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

Ona said the illegal connections were discovered during regular maintenance work on 425 traffic lights.

"The locations where we operated included those where a significant surge in power consumption was noted, because we know that the consumption of traffic lights per month is pretty much stable," he told the INQUIRER.

Ona said the agency has also begun coordinating with local governments for proper action on street lights found to be illegally connected to traffic lights at 11 intersections—six in Manila and five in Quezon City.

"We would be coordinating with them so that the power supply to the street lights would not be cut off. Maybe the linemen who connected these thought it was okay since they were connecting government lines," said Ona.

In July 2005, the MMDA created a task' force to look into the unsteady power consumption of traffic lights, suspecting that nearby residences had tapped into their power lines.

Ona said the agency will continue its crackdown as the composite team was set to continue checking other traffic lights in the metropolis.

Woman cop is indeed one of Manila's Finest

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TALES OF THE CITY

IT WAS DEFINITELY NOT WHAT HER father wanted for her.

When Senior Insp. Teresita Lim of the Manila Police District (MPD) decided to become a law enforcer almost three decades ago, she was careful not to reveal her plans to her Chinese father.

"He warned me against dipping my fingers in a man's job," Lim, now chief of the MPD District Investigation and Intelligence Division (DIID) administrative section, told the INQUIRER in an interview.

The 48-year-old Lim, who grew up in a Chinese-Filipino community in Quiapo, had considered taking up fine arts and engineering courses in college, but her father discouraged her.

"He stressed that painting was not a lucrative occupation while engineering was for men," Lim recalled.

SENIOR Insp. Teresita Lim, of the Manila Police District, whose men call themselves Manila's Finest, is not just one tough cop, she's also one of the best.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Business courses not an option

Despite her exposure as a child to her father's restaurant and shoe store, Lim said she refused to take up commerce which would give her the knowledge she needed to help out in the family business.

"Majority of my classmates, who were mostly Chinese, opted to take up business courses," Lim said. "I wanted to do something different, so I decided to become a criminal lawyer."

But shortly after graduating from the Philippine College of Criminology (PCCR) in the '70s, Lim said she felt she was destined for another profession.

After unexpectedly passing the National Police Commission eligibility examinations which she took on a whim, her former professor at the PCCR asked her to help solve the murder of a Chinese manager of a restaurant in Rizal Park by acting as an interpreter.

"The police needed me to take the statements of witnesses who were mostly Chinese," Lim, who is fluent in Mandarin and Fookien, explained.

Her professor, MPD's Col. Alejandro Yanquiling, managed to convince her to postpone her law school plans because of her vital role in the investigation.

From there on, Lim felt that there was no turning back.

"I had initial apprehensions, but I was sure about my choice to join the police force after my experience with Colonel Yanquiling's team," Lim said.

As things have turned out now, the then spunky 21-year-old made the right decision.

Showing 'em how

Aside from topping the firing test during their police basic training course, Lim also recalled dispelling doubts that a woman could succeed in a male-dominated profession during a military training at Camp Capinpin, Rizal.

While the police trainees were scaling a mountain, Lim noticed a male classmate having a hard time keeping up with them.

Lim decided to help her classmate by tugging at his shirt until they reached a service vehicle intended for the women trainees.

She then jogged behind the vehicle after giving up her space for her fellow trainee, earning admiration from everybody at the camp.

But Lim's biggest challenge was telling her father the truth about the career she had chosen. It was fortunate, she said with a smile, that her mother did it for her.

"My mother suggested that I raid a house where people illegally played mahjong after my father complained that he was cheated there," she said with a laugh.

After successfully raiding the gambling den and admonishing her father for playing, Lim did not hear any more complaints or grumbling from him.

"He was pacified after realizing that I had an important role in the community," the police officer said, grinning.

After receiving her father's blessing, Lim continued down her chosen career path, rising from the ranks over the years, working as a police officer and playing vital parts in undercover operations.

Outstanding policewoman

Last December, Lim was recognized as one of the MPD's 10 outstanding policemen because of her accomplishments as commander of the P. Algue Police Community Precinct.

The police officer was also commended for her role as chief of the DIID Filipino-Chinese Affairs Office (FCAO) based in Binondo, Manila.

"Chinese-Filipino businessmen usually have apprehensions about filing complaints at the police station because they get scared and intimidated," Lim said, adding that their office was tasked to monitor all complaints involving Chinese-Filipino victims and suspects.

Because she is actually part of the community, Lim was an obvious choice as chief of the office.

"I am only glad to be of service to the community where I grew up in," she said.

Lim added with a smile, "Although he did not really say it, I know my father is proud of me now."

Smokey Mt. scavengers now waste managers

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE BUT THE AREA known as Smokey Mountain was a peaceful, almost idyllic fishing village called Konset in the early 1950s.

One could swim in adjacent Manila Bay, and the residents earned a decent livelihood.

In a few years, however, things changed. The City of Manila's Department of Public Services and factories began dumping their waste here, and soon squatters from other areas moved in, and increased in number through the years.

During martial law, the dumpsite became a mountain of garbage several stories high, a symbol of urban blight, a portrait of the Filipino as scavenger.

A program of the national government to address the garbage problem through shredding and turning into compost the biodegradable waste ended in failure.

In 1983, a move to relocate some of the landless families ended in a burst of national ridicule when it was discovered that the site on Bulihan, Batangas-Cavite, contained nothing but toilet bowls.

More successful was the housing project of the National Housing Authority, which, by 2003 was able to construct 21 low-rise, low-cost buildings with 2,520 housing units, 120 households per five-story building and some 15,920 families.

Smokey Mountain has become, would you believe, Paradise Heights, the official name of the settlement.

The mountain was officially closed during the Ramos administration but it is still there, with its toxic residual waste. People are forbidden to go atop it but a few still venture there.

"The waste mass must be sealed or reprocessed," said Anita Celdran, Philippine representative of the Washington-based Sustainable Project Management (SPM), which is implementing a program to rehabilitate Smokey Mountain and convert it into an eco-park.

SPM is assisted by nongovernment organizations like Mother Earth Philippines and business firms like Unilever.

The Church is represented by parish priest Fr. Ben Beltran, SVD, who actually got things going again. The City of Manila approved the project in 2004.

"Pier 18 is an uncontrolled dumpsite," warned Celdran. "It is in danger of becoming another Smokey Mountain."

There are also man-made threats. Although many residents have been organized, some parts of Smokey Mountain are still no-man's-land, especially at night.

There was a stabbing incident recently in what was considered a safe place in the area.

Despite these challenges, a new spirit pervades Smokey Mountain a.k.a. Paradise Heights.

A materials-recovery-facility (MRF) system and biogester are in place, courtesy of the Department of Science & Technology.

"You never see trash lying around," observed Celdran. "The people are segregating and recycling waste products."

There is even a contest to discover the cleanest and most ecologically progressive building.

"The next stage is to build markets for their compost," Celdran said. "Waste can generate income provided the principal service is paid for."

"They are scavengers no more," she said. "They are recovering recyclable materials. They are waste managers, eco-aides and eco-boys."

INSTEAD of scavenging for trash, residents of Smokey Mountain, now known as Paradise Heights, recycle and segregate garbage.

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Woman jumps from 15th floor

By Tina G. Santos

A 30-YEAR-OLD BUSINESSWOMAN DIED AFter she jumped from the 15th floor of the Manila Hotel yesterday morning.

SI'04 Danny Vidad of the Manila Police District's homicide section identified the victim as Concepcion Bajamonde, of Pagadian City.

The victim was killed instantly because of the injuries she sustained due to her fall, the police said.

Investigation showed that the incident happened at around 6:30 a.m. in Room 1504 of the hotel where the victim, along with two friends, Ann Fullesco and Concepcion Luy, were staying.

The police said the victim and her companions arrived on Feb. 1 from Mindanao to attend the two-day convention of their group, Inner Wheel Club of the Philippines, at the hotel.

Fullesco and Luy were reportedly prodding the victim to assume the top post of their civic organization but Bajamonde did not want the responsibility, the police added.

As they were talking, Bajamonde suddenly broke the glass window and jumped.

One of the victim's companions said she tried to hold onto her to stop her but it was too late. The victim reportedly said, *"Ayoko na, ayoko na,"* before she jumped, the police said.

Authorities added that although initial investigation indicated that it was likely a suicide, they will continue the investigation to determine if there was foul play involved.

The Value of SPG Corporate Values
by Jenny delos Santos

ST. PETER
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Our key to a long-term success is how well every member of our organization embraces our corporate values. Our values are abbreviated into one meaningful term, GETICEP (God Centered, Excellence, Teamwork, Integrity, Customer Service, Employee Satisfaction and Professionalism).

A St. Peterian Pinoy who embraces these values can make a difference in this world. In the midst of a material and third world, where majority are in dire need of financial relief, it cannot be avoided that some us may just take advantage of situations that present a lure of temporarily gratification no matter how much the cost. Values formation therefore, may help us take a step back and have us decide to do the right thing. This is why when such a tempting situation presented itself to Rodel Mangabat (St. Peter Memorial Chapels' outsourced maintenance staff), he withstood the temptations and followed our values, making him choose to do the "right thing" over temporary material satisfaction.

It was during the last Christmas season that a visitor of one of our bereaved families inadvertently left his bag at the St. Peter Memorial Chapels. Fortunately, there was a Rodel Mangabat around to save the bag —from what was most likely a never found bag. Rodel, coming from a simple family that make ends meet, may have had several thoughts in his mind when he found the bag. But faithful to our corporate values, he immediately endorsed it to the SPMC office -as integrity is one of our most cherished values.

To the surprise of our visitor who later came back looking for the bag, Mr. Sebastian was so happy to see his belongings intact. He was so relieved that he rewarded Rodel with a token. While Rodel was glad to have received the token, he was more satisfied with the reward of knowing that he can look his children in the eye and share such a simple but heroic lesson again and again with dignity and integrity.

It is with honor and pride that we recognize the True St. Peterian Pinoy in Rodel Mangabat –Galing St. Peterian! We are proud that you are part of our St. Peter family. *ADVT.*

Canadian building bridges between Christians, Muslims

By Volt Contreras

PETTYFER

A CANADIAN LAWYER AND broadcast journalist, he was the last person you would expect to serve as a bridge between Filipino Christians and Muslims.

But Robin Pettyfer not only took a two-week break from work to be in Manila, he also tapped cutting-edge technology as a tool for linking up culturally diverse youth from distant points of the archipelago.

A two-day video conference between students in Metro Manila and Mindanao was held at the De La Salle University (DLSU) late last month. Among its proponents was Pettyfer, a Vancouver-based lawyer and journalist whose earlier stay in the country in the late '90s has since given him a sense of mission.

"We now have the power of technology to make average Joes realize that we're not really different from each other," said Pettyfer, 37, who conceptualized "Ugnay Kabataan" along with Benjie Abadiano, a 2004 Magsaysay Awardee for Emergent Leadership and president of the Assisi Development Foundation.

The conference, held last Jan. 23 and 24 at the DLSU's William Shaw Little Theater, was designed to "play down our differences which our leaders and politicians tend to exaggerate," he told the INQUIRER.

"What we're telling here is that these differences are irrelevant and you can stand up to those lies. A Christian can now say that 'hey, I spoke to Muslims today and they're just like me. They are not green, they don't have tails, they have girlfriends and love basketball, too'," he stressed.

Organizers claim that "Ugnayan" was the first time video conferencing—courtesy of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.—was used for this purpose.

Pettyfer, who last year also took part in humanitarian projects in rural Mindanao and in the slums of Baseco, Tondo, said he chose the country to be the pilot area for this mode of peacemaking, which he intends to replicate in other conflict zones around the world like the Middle East.

What he called his "strong emotional attachment to Filipinos" can be traced to his late grandfather Gerald Hugh Wilkinson, a British colonel posted in the country during World War II, who went on to befriend Filipino families like the Zobels and Sorianos, as well as the late President Ramon Magsaysay.

Pettyfer lived in Manila from 1997 to 1999 as a corporate lawyer for foreign investors and multinationals. For the past few years, however, he has been working as a TV and radio reporter for the Canadian Broadcast Corp.

"This is my home away from home," he smiled. "Filipinos are a very creative, generous, sociable, and positive people. But they have been given a bad deal by invading cultures that have exploited their good nature."

At an estimated cost of P200,000, the video linkup was established between the DSLU theater in Manila and the St. Joseph Retreat House in Cotabato City. "Ugnay" gathered some 300 high school students representing 19 schools in Metro Manila, and 22 students and youth leaders representing Muslims and lumad tribes from around Mindanao.

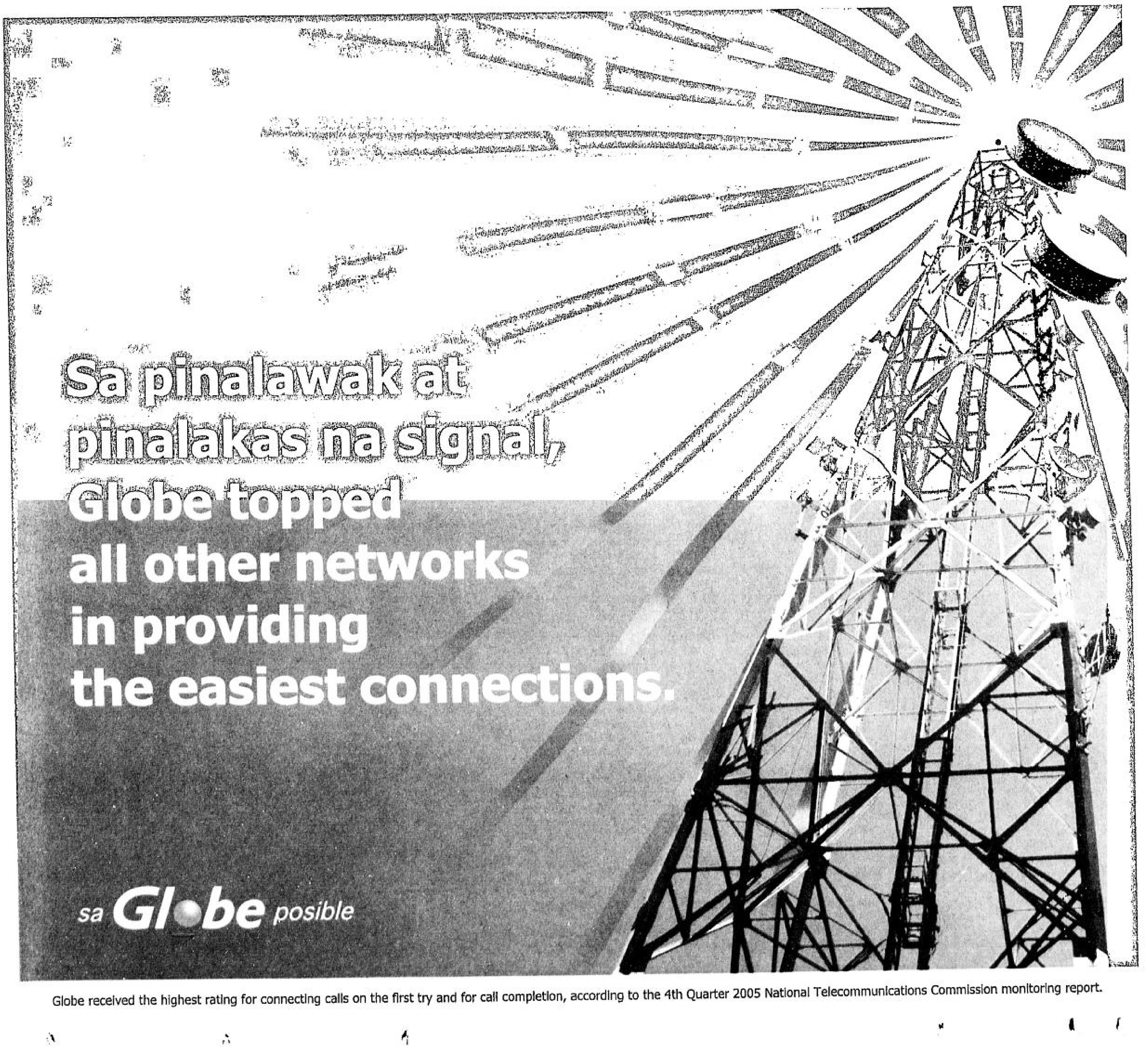
The students enjoyed up to four hours of real-time video chat, with adult panelists guiding the discussion on topics ranging from the day's hottest political issues, to religious tolerance, and the armed conflict in Mindanao.

The sharing took poignant turns especially when Mindanao students spoke of racial discrimination and mass evacuations spurred by military operations in their villages, and of Muslims being tagged as "terrorists."

Also among the organizers was another Canadian, Tim Boulton, a teacher from the International School in Manila.

"I'm a strong believer in bringing people together through technology, which is cheaper than sending them on trips to meet," added Pettyfer, who personally wrote PLDT chair Manny Pangilinan last July to ask his firm to sponsor the video hook-up.

His proposal was endorsed by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and the RM Foundation.



Globe received the highest rating for connecting calls on the first try and for call completion, according to the 4th Quarter 2005 National Telecommunications Commission monitoring report.

Sunday SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

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FOLLOW UP: Jeneveve Lanuevo follows up on a set shot by sister Jenifer in their semifinal match against Shiela Dumrique and Jessy Dumagat during the first leg of the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball at the Clearwater Country Club in Clark, Pampanga. The Lanuevo sisters advance to the finals. ERNIE U. SARMENTO

Kings, Bulls dispute 2nd finals berth

GAME TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
5:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Red Bull
Game 1—Ginebra d. Red Bull, 105-100 (OT)
Game 2—Red Bull d. Ginebra, 86-83
Game 3—Red Bull d. Ginebra, 93-85
Game 4—Red Bull d. Ginebra, 88-85
Game 5—Ginebra d. Red Bull, 97-83
Game 6—Ginebra d. Red Bull, 85-77

BARANGAY GINEBRA HAS PROven it thrives in adversity.

But don't tell that to Red Bull Barako coach Yeng Guiao, who insists his team has what it takes to hurdle it all despite blowing a two-game advantage in their best-of-seven semifinal series.

The Kings and the Bulls collide in Game 7 of their semifinal duel today at the Araneta Coliseum with the winner moving up against Purefoods Chunkee in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference Finals.

"You know what your team can do and know that your system works," said Guiao, who lost a 3-1 series lead.

Barangay Ginebra Siot Tanquingcen also adopts the same line of thinking following the Kings' convincing victories in Games 5 and 6.

"I don't really believe in momentum. But one thing's for sure, the character of this team always comes out when our backs are against the wall," said Tanquingcen, who boasts a 5-1 record in do-or-die games as a head coach.

History is also on Ginebra's side.

It is the only team in the league to claw back from a 1-3 deficit to win a title series. The Kings did the trick at the expense of Shell in the 1991 First Conference championships.

Since that Ginebra feat, all 17 teams which took 3-1 leads in a best-of-seven series went on to win the championship. Prior to that 1991 exploit, no team down 1-3 has ever forced a Game 7.

Chris Porter should again at least duplicate his 24-point, 30-rebound effort in Game 6 and motivate reigning MVP Eric Menk to back him up in the paint to boost the Kings' chances.

Menk scored at least 20 points in games that Ginebra won (Games 1, 5 and 6) while averaging 7.5 points from Games 2, 3 and 4.

The Bulls are hoping to draw more points from James Penny and Lordy Tugade. *June Navarro*

Banal resigns; Pals eye Pumaren, Reyes

By June Navarro

A DAY AFTER ACCEPTING JOEL Banal's resignation, Talk 'N Text is choosing between two multi-titled coaches capable of charting the team's future in the Philippine Basketball Association.

A well-entrenched team source said Talk 'N Text assistant coach Derrick Pumaren and former Coca-Cola and present national team coach Chot Reyes are the top candidates to replace Banal.

"He (Banal) has made the extreme sacrifice by offering his resignation," said Talk 'N Text governor Ricky Vargas. "We are now seriously looking at two candidates who will take over the post vacated by Banal."

Talk 'N Text management had a chat with the players Thursday before Banal and his deputies submitted an accomplishment report the other day.

Under Banal, the Phone Pals captured the 2003 All-Filipino Cup crown, had two runner-up finishes and settled for third twice.

The Phone Pals got booted out by the Air21 Express in the quarterfinals of the ongoing PBA Fiesta Conference, prompting management to review the team's performance.

Rain or Shine seeks 2-0 lead

GAMES TODAY *(San Andres Gym)*
2:30 p.m.—Achievement Awards
3:30 p.m.—Magnolia vs Rain or Shine (Game 2 Finals)

TURNING TO ITS SECOND UNIT HAS PAID OFF for Rain or Shine.

And coach Caloy Garcia hopes the game plan will continue to work when his Elasto Painters shoot for a 2-0 advantage versus the Magnolia Wizards in Game 2 of their PBL Heroes Cup championship series today at the San Andres Gym.

"Our role players know that anybody can be a hero in the team," said Garcia. "Since the semis, I've been using most of my second stringers because our first stringers have also been tired."

Before the Painters gun for their ninth straight win at 3:30 p.m., the league will hold its Achievement Awards at 2:30 with the top players of the title contenders also vying for individual honors.

The Painters' veteran forward Jojo Tangkay leads the race for the Most Valuable Player plum, but teammate Jay-R Reyes and the imposing Wizards duo of Arwind Santos and Kelly Williams are also strong candidates for the coveted award.

"We have to come out strong because Williams and Santos are hard to stop, they're playing so well," noted Garcia.

Young forward Junjun Cabatu decided Game 1 for Rain or Shine last Thursday.

Cabatu, a La Salle standout and son of brawny ex-pro Sonny Cabatu, nailed a buzzer-beater to lead the Painters to a 70-68 overtime win.

It was also Cabatu who fired the game-tying three-pointer with 56.8 seconds left that forced the extra period.

Cabatu finished with 20 points off the bench, while point guard Eugene Tan contributed 11.

But Magnolia mentor Koy Banal remains positive that his team can score an equalizer in the best-of-five series.

"There should be no frustration," said Banal. "We have to forget what happened in Game 1 and move on to a higher level. That's the only way we can beat a team as strong as Rain or Shine." *Jasmine W. Payo*

National triathlon up today

CAN A YOUNG CHALlenger pull off an upset this time?

A promising crop of junior triathletes are expected to press the veterans when the National Triathlon Championship fires off today at Lakeshore in Mexico, Pampanga.

Sandra Araullo, silver medalist in the recent Southeast Asian Games, and national record holder Ani de Leon remain the top contender in the women's division of the taxing 1.5K swim-40K bike-10K run event.

But 17-year-old Mimi Lucas and Lea Coline Langit, 19, are given equal chances of topping the favorites.

Another 17-year-old, Mikki Quilala of De La Salle University, is also one of the strong bets in the men's division along with SEAG veteran Noel Salvador and Peter Gonzales.

Aside from the cash prizes, the top finishers will also secure RP team slots to the Asian Triathlon Championship in China and in the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

Also competing in the standard and sprint distance races are national age group champion Joash Serran and UAAP swimming champion Josephine Pilapil. *Jasmine W. Payo*

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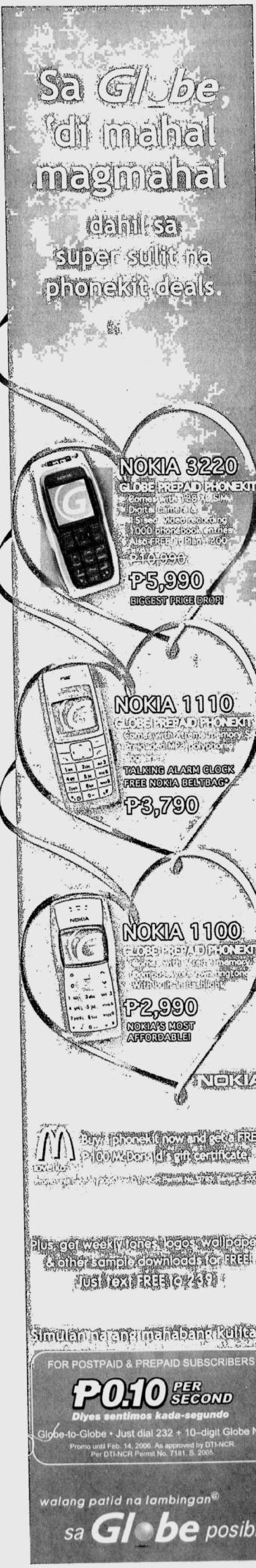

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Piata Cup tomorrow at Sta. Elena

TICKETS TO VARIOUS DESTINATIONS will be raffled off in the third Philippine IATA Agents Travel Association (Piata) Golf Cup tomorrow at Sta. Elena Golf Club in Laguna. DPC Yellow Pages and Transnational Diversified Group are co-presenting the event staking a Suzuki APV courtesy of Suzuki Auto Makati and Pioneer Insurance as a hole-in-one prize, according to Piata Golf Cup overall chair Frank Khouri. Major sponsors are Amadeus, Galileo, PAL, Northwest Airlines, Lufthansa, KLM, Etihad Airways, Cathay Pacific Airways. Raffle donors are British Airways, JAL, Continental Airlines, Eva Air, Malaysian Airlines, China Airlines, Royal Brunei, Singapore Airlines, Cebu Pacific, Thai Airways and Air Macau.

DepED
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue,
Pasig City, Philippines

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Supply and delivery of Book Bags for High School Students

Date: January 27, 2006
Loan No.: 1654-PHI; Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP)
IFB No.: ADB-BB-SEDIP-2006

1. The Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in the "ADB Business Opportunities" issued on December 20, 2005.
2. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contracts for the Supply and Delivery of Book Bags for High School Students.
3. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of the following:
   - 2.1 Lot 1: Book Bags for Zone 1: 92,317 pieces
   - 2.2 Lot 2: Book Bags for Zone 2: 74,340 pieces
   - 2.3 Lot 3: Book Bags for Zone 3: 337,094 pieces
   - 2.4 Lot 4: Book Bags for Zone 4: 288,573 pieces
4. International Competitive Bidding (ICB) will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage: One Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from DepED and inspect the Bidding Documents from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting **February 6, 2006** at the Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Building , DepED Complex, Pasig City, Philippines, at Tel. Nos. (632) 636-6543/633-9343 or at Fax No. (632)635-6542. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org.
6. The Bidding Documents in the English language may be purchased by interested eligible bidders to the address given in paragraph 5 upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 3,000.00. The method of payment will be cash, cashier's check, manager's check, or certified check.
7. Bids must be delivered to Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines at or before 10:00 a.m. on **April 7, 2006**. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of 2.0% of the total bid amount, in Philippine peso or in any freely convertible currency of eligible countries. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the given address, time and date.
8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **February 21, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** at the same address indicated in paragraph 5.
9. The DepEd reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of Contract(s) without incurring any liability to the affected bidders and to waive any minor informality or non-conformity in a bid which does not constitute a material deviation, provided such waiver will not prejudice or affect competitive ranking of any bid.
10. The Department of Education will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

(Sgd.) ATTY. CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA
Assistant Secretary and Chairman,
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – February 5 & 12, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development – Bicol

BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Naga City
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E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-89-36; (054) 473-2334; (054) 811-2227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph//bmc/index.htm

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER**, through **General Appropriations Act of 2006** intends to apply specified sums for the following projects:
   a. **Project: Procurement of Various Medical Equipment – (IAEB No. 2006-01) Approved Budget for the Contract: TWENTY TWO MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR & 05/100 Philippine Pesos (Php 22,532,164.05)**
      Sale of Bid Documents : January 30, 2006 to March 2, 2006
      Pre-Bid Conference : February 28, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
      Bid Opening : March 10, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   b. **Project: Procurement of Various Pharmaceuticals – (IAEB No. 2006-02) Approved Budget for the Contract: FORTY THREE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY SIX & 40/100 Philippine Pesos (Php 43,774,236.40)**
      Sale of Bid Documents January 30, 2006 to March 3, 2006
      Pre-Bid Conference March 1, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
      Bid Opening : March 13, 2006 – 9:00 A.M. BMC Library
   Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the above stated projects. Delivery of Goods required as stated in the Special Conditions of the Contract for each project.
   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BICOL MEDICAL CENTER and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00A.M. to 12:00Noon; 1:00P.M. to 5:00P.M., except weekends and Holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents for each project may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **TWO THOUSAND Philippine Pesos (PhP2,000.00)**. The method of payment will be in the form of Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms, in the amount at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency:
   1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)
   2. Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)
   3. Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)
   Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative/s who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The **BICOL MEDICAL CENTER** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Address:
BICOL MEDICAL CENTER
Concepcion Pequeña, Naga City
Telephone Nos. (054) 473-7578; (054) 473-8936
E-mail Address: slopez_bmc@yahoo.com
Fax No. (054) 473-8936; (054)811-2227
Website: http://www.doh.gov.ph//bmc/index.htm

Contact Person:
ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA
Chief Administrative Officer and BAC Chairman

(Sgd.) ANGELITA A. AGAWA, MPA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Jan. 30 & Feb. 5, 2006)

Alabang Mango Tee finale

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB WRAPS UP THE 22nd edition of the Mango Tee Invitational golf tournament today with many teams fighting it out for top honors in various divisions.

Two teams, Antonio Panajon-Lorenzo Martinez and Rey Carpio-Doods Antipuesto, shared the overall lead at 151 points after the completion of Friday's round with the rest of the teams set to play their final 18 holes yesterday and today.

Panajon and Martinez followed up their 78 in Round 1 with a 73 to emerge the leader in Class B while Carpio-Antipuesto also had the same scores to show the way in Class D in the tourney co-presented by Smart Communications and Pilipinas Shell.

Nearly P2 million in prizes, topped by a Yamaha golf cart worth P270,000, will be given away.

Shin dominates Southern Ladies

BUKIDNON—CRYSTAL SHIN OF Korea closed out with a three-under-par 69 for 57 points and ran away with the 43rd Southern Ladies Open Golf Championship yesterday at the Del Monte Golf Club in Manolo Fortich here.

The 14-year-old, who has stayed in the country for the last six months to polish her game on this same course, signed for a third straight sub-70 round and pulled away from former champion Lora Roberto, who settled for a 73 and 53 points.

Shin tallied 175 points for 54 holes under the Molave scoring system. Her 14-point victory was one of the most lopsided in the history of the event organized by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

A second round 66 on Friday enabled Shin to wriggle out of a first-round tie with Roberto, whose 53 yesterday was matched by Park Sung-hyun for a third place finish at 160 points.

The event was sponsored by Petron Corp., DHL Worldwide Express/WWW Express, Gopez Corp. and Hans Bruhmann Int'l. Jeweler and backed by the Philippine Sports Commission, DPC Yellow Pages, U-Bix and Rep. Constantino Jaraula of Cagayan de Oro.

Aileen Rose Yao took fourth place with a 159 after a second straight 52 while jungolfer Cyna Rodriguez rallied with a two-under par 70 worth 56 points to finish in joint fifth with local bet Eva Miñoza, who shot 52, with 158 totals.

Rounding up the top 10 finishers were Crystal Superal (53-157), Lina de Guzman, the 2003 champion (49-155), Chihiro Ikeda (51-155) and veteran internationalist Anya Tanpinco (52-155).

Gilda Medestomas took the Class A crown with a 127 after a 39, beating Claudine Garcia (35-124) and Kristine Leonen (38-119), while Celine Menes shot 39 points to pocket the Class B title with a 106.

Inday Tan (31) and Ester Arancon finished second and third with 96 and 95 points, respectively.

Nicole Baretto clinched the Class C diadem with a 110 after a 42. Milou Tan carded a second straight 26 to take the Class D title with a 75.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—JJ's Friend (3), Tony's Secret (2), Spoiler (5)
Race 2—(Penta/Tri)—Smooth Strike (2), Virgin Island (8), Batang Kalookan (7), Western Dancer (5), Saint Bernard (10)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Winn After Win (2), Blazing Maldini (3), Fairy Queen (6), Sacred Hall (5)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Brenda Starr (6), Sir Clizon (5), Divine Right (3), Richie Rich (4)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Terminator (1), Long Hitter (2), Valiente (4), King Yoji (7)
Race 6—(Penta/Tri)—Red Phoenix/All Class (1), Empire State (2), Fancy Dancer (8), Loaded (5), Sound Of The Wind (4)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Hula Sunrise (3), Alexis Magic (5), Chukra (2), District Three (6)
Race 8—(Penta/Tri)-Mina Sa Isla (3), Lady Be Gold (4), Run Doding Fly (1), Meal Ticket (6), Habagat (7)
Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Ever Mine Now (2), Luxardo (6), Desert Fly (3), Kalmia (1)
Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)— Imperator (2), Hezabellagio (3), Scarlet Beauty (5), Miss Bobon
Race 11—(Super 6/Tri)—Speed Admiral (8), Hello Junior (7), Real Tough (5), War Bird (4), Battle Hero (3), Lord Brian (6)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Screaming Eagle (3), Selectee (6), Hale And Hearty (1), King Hazm (4)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Coromell (4), Cognac Monnet (2), Bumper To Bumper (5), Ginger Candy (10), Summer Gear (9), Angel Of Light (8)

Race track up in Clark

A NEW RACE TRACK WILL RISE at the Clark Special Economic Zone to pave the way for the Philippines' hosting of international motorsports events. Clark Development Corp., headed by president and CEO Antonio Ng and Kilton Motor Corp. president Johnny Tan, signed a contract last Jan. 31 for the establishment of an international standard race track to be known as the Clark International Speedway. The Speedway will cater to karting, drag racing, motorcycle racing and other special events. The 10-hectare track will be located along Gil Puyat Avenue near the Mabalacat Gate.

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The **CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CAGELCO II)** is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following:

1. **KWH Meters and Distribution Transformers for the Single Digit System Loss Reduction Program of the cooperative.**

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1. Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto)
   a. Company Profile
   b. Business Registration
   c. Business Permit
   d. BIR/VAT Certificate
   e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   f. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years if applicable
2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirements - February 20, 2006.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI - Feb. 5 & 12, 2006)

NAFC

Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PAGSASAKA AT PANGINGISDA
(National Agricultural and Fishery Council)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
Tel. No 9288741 to 65 local 510

Tender No.: FY 2005 US FOOD FOR PROGRESS PROGRAM-06/02

February 3, 2006

INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) hereby invites sealed bids for the sale of 9,300 metric tons (+/- 1%) at Seller's option of food wheat with estimated time of arrival at the Philippine port approximately **March 18-22, 2006** under the US Food for Progress Program.

Interested bidders must have a license to operate from any government issuing agency as food manufacturer, food distributor, importer or trader.

Bid documents are available from NAFC BAC Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee amounting to One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

The floor price is Php 11,395.00/MT C & F.

Fully completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than **9:00 a.m. on February 7, 2006** at the NAFC Executive Conference Room. Bids received after the scheduled time will not be accepted/entertained and will be returned unopened. Opening of bids will be at 9:15 a.m.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Paz Ventic or Ms. Peachy Agustin at tel. nos. 929-8234 and 920-3992.

(Sgd.) ATTY. BERNIE G. FONDEVILLA
Executive Director

(PDI - Feb. 4 & 5, 2006)

Del Monte, Ka Tino and more

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

MANOLO FORTICH, Bukidnon—I am right here in Cawayanon Compound, where vintage, typical American bungalows mostly built in the so-called Roaring Twenties dot the back nine of the Del Monte Golf Club. How these neat-looking bungalows survived the ravages of time is the kind of stuff fit for "Ripley's Believe It or Not."

The place is called Cawayanon because this used to be planted to thousands of bamboos (*cawayan*).

OK, I'm in the mood for a bit of history. I always had high marks (ahem!) in history while I was in school. Just loved the subject.

Cawayanon's bamboos are gone, replaced by towering pine trees on the Del Monte Golf Club, a par-72 championship layout measuring 7,010 yards that I once called "The Golf Jewel of Mindanao."

The Southern Ladies Open had concluded its 43rd straight tournament here yesterday and the 60 or so players that included the event's matriarch, NGAP director Alice Andrada, had every reason to be ecstatic over their five-day stay inside the compound's heritage-laden lodges and villas (a.k.a. bungalows). These abodes were home to the American pioneers of Del Monte which, up to now, still ships out thousands of sweet pineapples around the world almost daily. Credit goes chiefly now to the Lorenzos (hi, Cito, hope everything's fine with you?). They bought Del Monte some years back and continued nurturing a well-loved Philippine tradition.

Ten of the 30 hectares of the Cawayanon Compound is occupied by the golf course and the remaining 20 hectares is mainly home to nearly 4,000 fattening cows. The lush greenery in the mostly bright, but relatively cool sunshine of Cawayanon is perfect habitat for the cows. Thus Del Monte is famous for its roast beef sandwiches, not to mention its juicy, New York cut, if not Porterhouse, steaks; many swear they are even better than the world-famed Angus beef. Del Monte's pineapples, grown at nearby Camp Philips, mostly help make the beef tender as a good chunk of the cows' meals are peppered with pineapple pulp bits. Now that's where the secret lies, fellas. Pulp bits.

Nearly 200 horses also graze in the sprawling pasturelands surrounding the golf course. These horses are used to rein in the cows by trained hands that comprise the cowboys of Bukidnon, chiefly copied from American cowboys we only see mostly in Hollywood movies.

Cawayanon is in Barangay San Miguel of this town, named after the first mayor (Manolo Fortich) of what was then known as Tankulan (*kangkungan*)—so named because the place was then a rich vegetation of "*kangkong*," which is the Filipino equivalent of the spinach.

This is the first town of Bukidnon coming from Cagayan de Oro City. It sits atop a hill overlooking the scenic Macahalar Bay off the Pacific coast. I love watching the blue-green waters from here.

James McNeil Crawford, the second president of Del Monte Inc., built the Del Monte Golf course's first nine holes in 1928. In 1974, the second nine designed by the legendary Tino Tugot was inaugurated by President Marcos.

Tugot, the seven-time Philippine Open champion who turns 93 on April 6, lives in a modest house just in front of the gate leading to the clubhouse.

My heart now bleeds for Ka Tino, who to me is the greatest Filipino golfer ever, who fell off the stairs of his house some two weeks ago. He fractured his left arm in the fall and suffered an ugly gash on his forehead that needed, according to his son, Norman, seven stitches to close. After his left arm had been put to a cast, he banged it against the hospital wall, complaining it was too heavy.

"It's been put to a cast anew and he's out of the hospital now. Thank God, he is recovering fast," said Norman, who devotes most of his time looking after his father, especially now that her mother is gone.

Cawayanon and Del Monte. History-wise, they will be in my mind always, notwithstanding that Tino Tugot—and yes, include Del Monte's other great produce in yet another golfer, Frankie Miñoza—occupies the biggest spot in my heart.

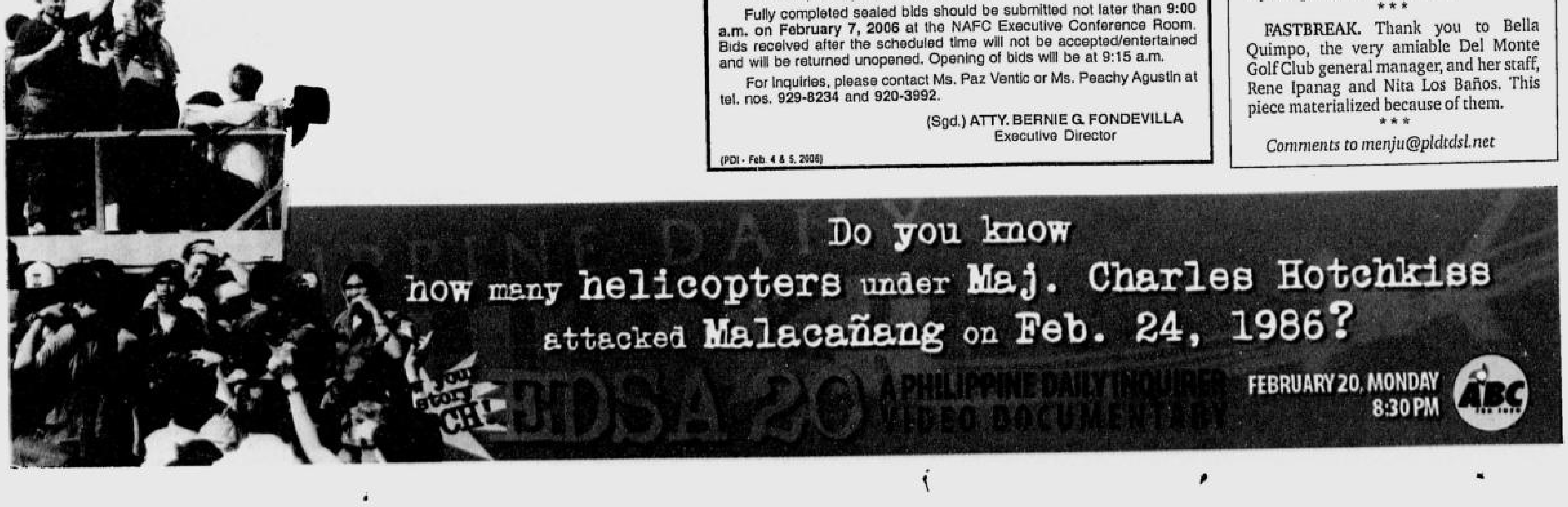
Here's praying Ka Tino, the only Filipino golfer who had shaken hands with a sitting American president (Ike Eisenhower in 1955 in Washington DC) gets well soon. My first putter came from him.

* * *

FASTBREAK. Thank you to Bella Quimpo, the very amiable Del Monte Golf Club general manager, and her staff, Rene Ipanag and Nita Los Baños. This piece materialized because of them.

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net


Do you know
how many helicopters under Maj. Charles Hotchkiss
attacked Malacañang on Feb. 24, 1986?
EDSA 20
A PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER VIDEO DOCUMENTARY
FEBRUARY 20, MONDAY
8:30PM
ABC

Gorres decisions foe in Vegas

TOP-RANKED OPBF SUPER FLYWEIGHT Z "The Dream" Gorres outclassed Jose Alfredo Tirado of Mexico with a unanimous decision yesterday in their bout that topbilled Friday Nite Fights at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Judges Bill Graham and Duane Ford both saw it at 98-91 while the third judge, Dave Moretti, had it 99-90, all for Gorres, who had Manny Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach, Edito Villamor and Tony Martin in his corner during the 10-round fight.

Veteran referee Jay Nady deducted a point off Tirado for repeatedly holding on to Gorres, who held off the onrushing Mexican with effective counterpunching.

Up next for the southpaw Gorres, now 23-1-1 with 12 stoppages, is a crack at the OPBF title against ex-champ Waenpetch Chuwatana on March 18 at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex.

In the chief support, Czar Amonsot eked out a hard-earned unanimous verdict over a heftier Cristian Favela of Mexico in their 8-round duel. Amonsot improved to 14-1-1 with 10 KOs. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Enzo Tour

ENZO Pastor is leaving second week of this month for a worldwide test series of top Formula teams in the United States, Europe and in the Asian F3. Enzo will be in Sebring, Florida, in the Barber Dodge R/T 2000 National Series, Ontario, Canada, Pro-Mazda in California, European F3 in Germany, Italian F3 in Monza, Italy and Asian F3 in Manila. His team manager Tom Pastor will be traveling with Enzo. Interested sponsors may course inquires through the Philippine Formula Autosport Foundation, Inc. e-mail at colbyventures@skyinet.net attn. Tom Pastor.

FIM-UAM

PUERTO Princesa City will again play host to round 2 of the 2006 FIM-UAM Asia Pacific Motocross Championship on March 19. An estimated 70,000 spectators attended each of the first two editions of the event also held in the popular tourist destination in 2004 and 2005. Mayor Edward Hagedorn has tasked city administrator lawyer Agustin Rocamora to oversee the preparations being coordinated with NAMSSA, the national sporting association for motocross. NAMSSA managing director Stephan Carapiet, president Kenneth Falco and vice president Arthur Valdez have laid out the framework for the comprehensive work which will cover racetrack preparation, safety, security as well as transfers and accommodations for participants and guests.

PCAP tilt

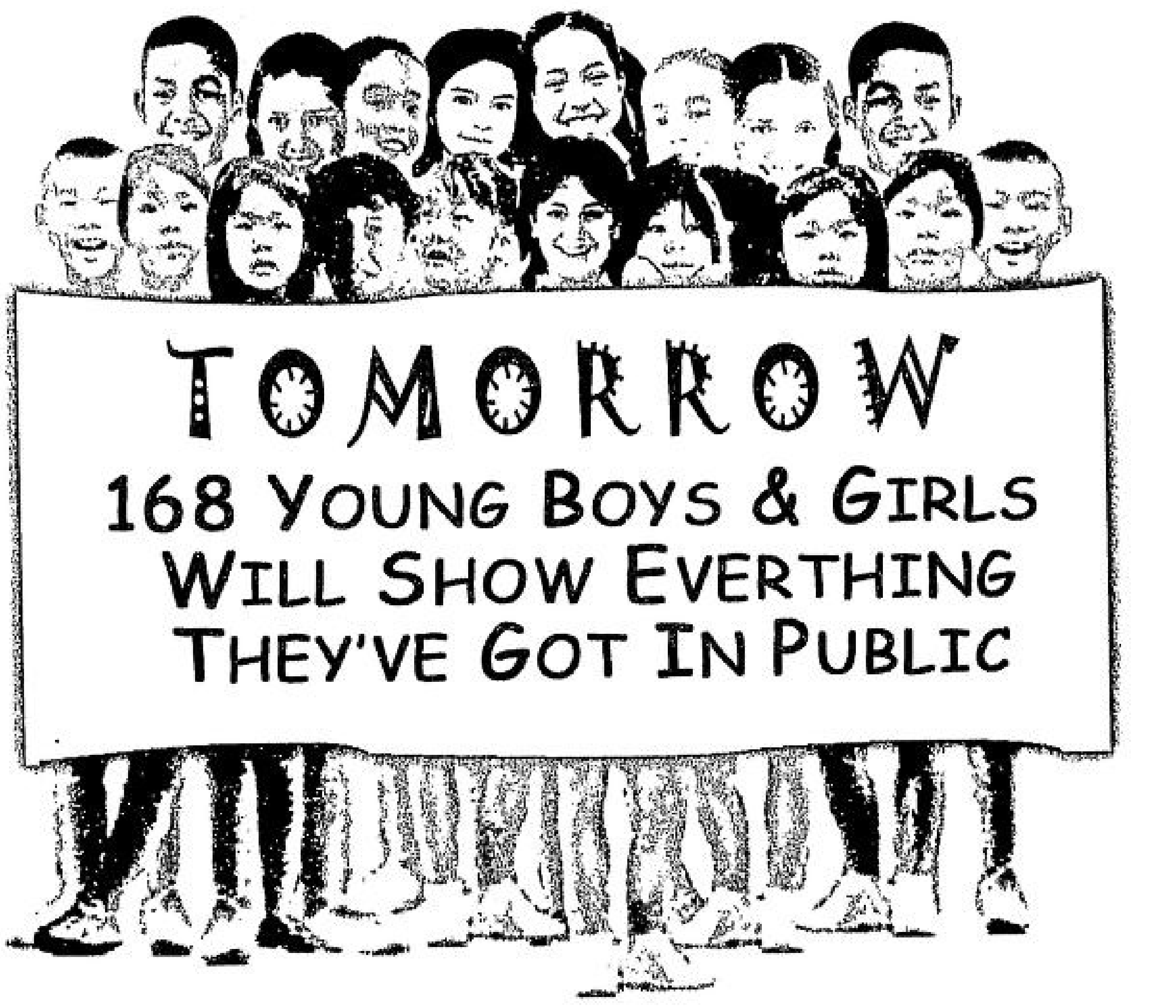
BIG TIME cockfighting continues tomorrow at the fully air-conditioned Makati Coliseum via the third leg of the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-cock derby series. Main backer is B-Meg Derby Ace. Participants must submit entries from 2-9 p.m. today. Contact 896-3545 or 895-6475. The derby will start at 5 p.m. with 65 fights on tap.

Open format

THE LUZON-BASED Gamecock Breeders Association (LBGBA) composed of LGBA, CVGBA, GBAT, KGBA, BBC, Bigba, Unigba and Tagba tender the maiden issue of the Philippine Heritage Cup 2006 to the champion of its initial promotion of 5-cock/bullstag derby series on Feb. 21 and 23 at the Araneta Coliseum. Gran Matador and B-Meg Derby Ace are the sponsors. A guaranteed prize of P1.2 million is at stake. Entry fee is P10,000. Call 926-7808 and 924-5072 (Taz Lunasco).

Citations

THREE foreign archery officials have lauded NAAP (National Archery Association of the Philippines) president Dr. Leonora Fe S. Brawner and secretary-general Ligaya P. Manalang for a job well done in the archery competition of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games here last year. The FITA officials—Jury of Appeal chair Major Baharuddin Jamil (Ret.) of Malaysia, Judge Commission chair Sergio Font Milian of Cuba and technical delegate Sanguan Kosavinta of Thailand—attributed the success of the event to the efforts of Brawner and Manalang in their reports.



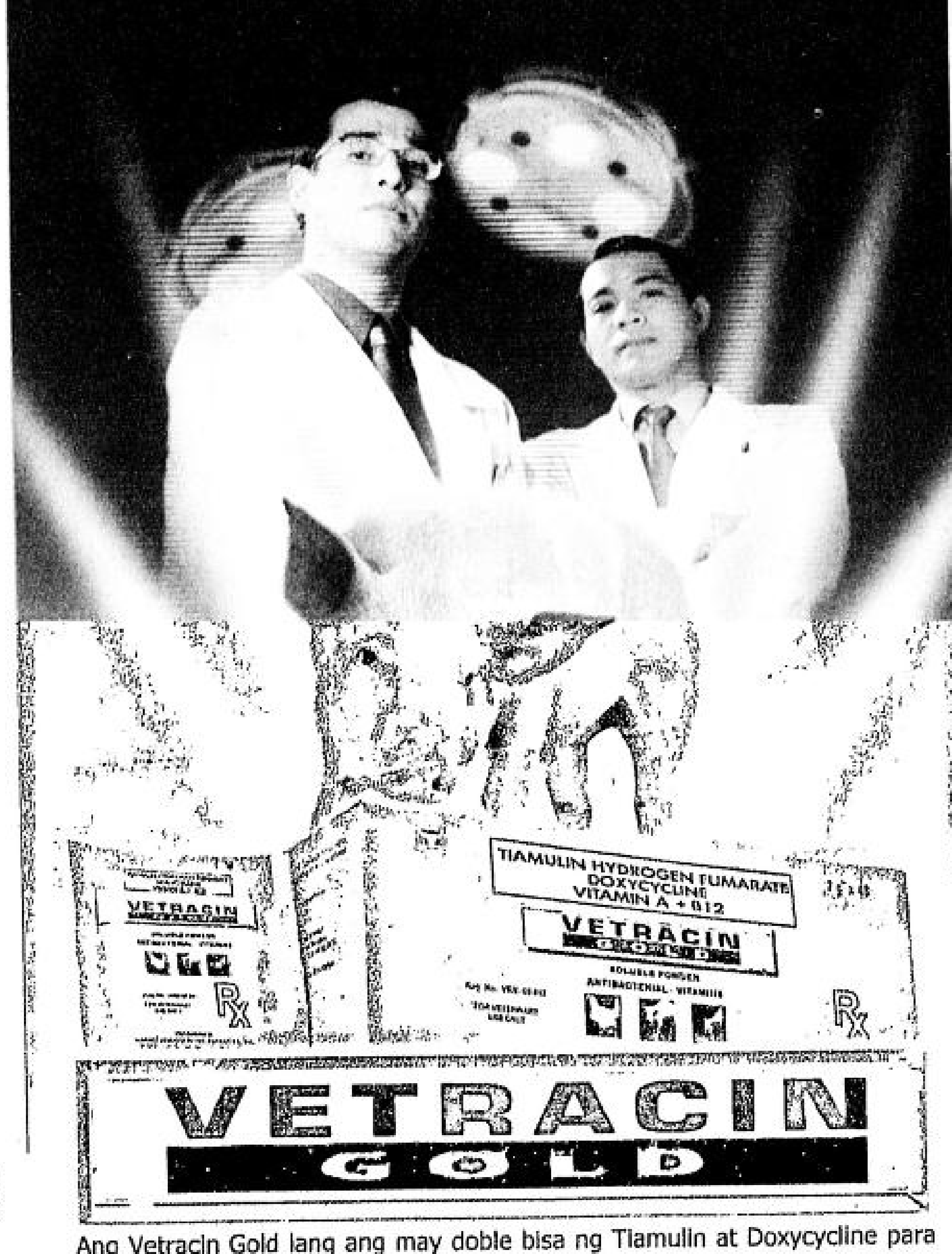
TOMORROW
168 YOUNG BOYS & GIRLS WILL SHOW EVERTHING THEY'VE GOT IN PUBLIC

THEIR PARENTS, TEACHERS, SCHOOLMATES, COACHES, ATHLETIC MODERATORS, FRIENDS and

TOBY'S

WILL BE THERE TO SUPPORT THEM.

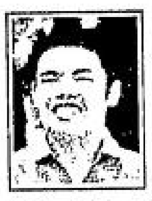
EKSPERTO LABAN SA UBO, SIPON AT LAGNAT



Ang Vetracin Gold lang ang may doble bisa ng Tiamulin at Doxycycline para magbigay ng pinakamabilis at pinakamabisang lunas sa sipon, ubo at lagnat ng baboy! May Vitamin A at B12 pa ito para palakasin ang resistensya at lalong mapadali ang paggaling ng inyong alaga!

Kaya alaga mo'y parang nasa kamay ng mga eksperto sa **Vetracin Gold!**

DOBLE GALING MAGPAGALING! 24



Mabilis pong umepekto ang Vetracin Gold. Single dose lang po kaya malaki ang tipid eh. Di tulad sa dati laging double dose. Matagal pa kayong gagamit. Bili kayo ng bili. Dito sa Vetracin Gold sandali lang ang paggamit ninyo, magaling na ang alaga ninyo.

Marlon Borromeo
Mother Hen Farms Inc.

Pag nakita ko sa umaga na may medyo inuubo, nananamlay o may sipon, nilalagyan ko kaagad ng Vetracin Gold sa pakain o painom...at kinabukasan, makikita mo na medyo masigla na ang baboy at wala na yung sipon.

Vicente Amparo
Farm Owner

Ang kagandahan ng paggamit ng Vetracin Gold, mabilis na itong makapaggamot ng ubo at sipon ng baboy, may bitamina pa ito para mapanatiling maganda at malakas ang resistensiya ng baboy.

Mario Amparo
Farm Owner

Malaki pong tulong yang Vetracin Gold. Sa ubo, sipon; lagnat, basta sang beses lang masupakan ang baboy...hindi na kailangan supakan ulit dahil utay-utay nang nagaling.

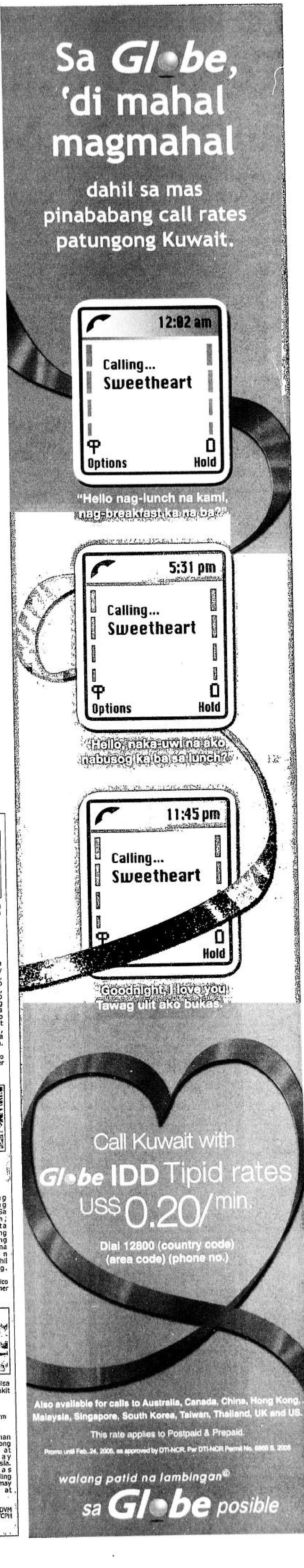
Felix Gulco
Farm Owner

Ang Tiamulin, effective sa upper respiratory tract na bacteria gaya ng *mycoplasma*, at ang Doxycycline naman ay sa lower na gaya ng *Bordetella* at *Pateurella*. Ang kumbinasyon nila ay napakabisa at napakabilis laban sa mga sakit na nasabi.

Esteban Aldrin H. Bisa DVM
Animal Health Consultant, Paraiso Farm

Ang kagandahan ng kombinasyong Doxycycline at Tiamulin ay nagtutulungan sila. Kaya mas madaling gagaling ang baboy na may lagnat, ubo at sipon.

Ruth Miclat-Sonaco DVM
Training Specialist, ITCPH



Sa Globe, 'di mahal magmahal

dahil sa mas pinababang call rates patungong Kuwait.

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"Hello, naka-uwi na ako nabusog ka ba sa lunch?"

"Goodnight. I love you. Tawag ulit ako bukas."

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Promo until Feb. 24, 2006, as approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6869 S. 2006

walang patid na lambingan©

sa Globe posible

Toronto trades with, and beats, New York

TORONTO—CHRIS BOSH scored 29 points and the Toronto Raptors beat the struggling New York Knicks, 104-90, hours after the NBA teams completed a trade on Friday.

Before the game, Toronto sent Jalen Rose to New York for Antonio Davis, a first-round draft pick and cash.

"We have some deficiencies that hopefully Jalen will help alleviate," Knicks coach Larry Brown said. "I think he'll take a lot of pressure off the perimeter people and make the big guys bigger."

Rose and Davis did not play—Brown thought it would be unfair to throw Rose into action immediately. Rose sat on New York's bench wearing a suit—Davis stayed at the hotel.

"He can still play, he can go out there and put up numbers with the best of them," said New York's Eddy Curry. "The sooner he becomes active within our system, the better it's going to be for us."

Morris Peterson added 21 points for the Raptors, who have won three straight.

In other games, Atlanta nipped Orlando, 96-94; the LA Clippers creamed Boston, 98-81; Charlotte shocked the LA Lakers, 112-102; Detroit skinned Philadelphia, 87-80; Houston crushed Seattle, 100-77; Utah knocked Sacramento, 89-79 and Portland nipped Minnesota, 89-85.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Jumaine Jones scored a career-high 31 points to help Charlotte snap its franchise-record, 13-game losing streak with a shocker over Los Angeles. *AP*

NBA on TV: SOLAR SPORTS—10 a.m.—Memphis vs. Milwaukee (replay at 7 p.m.)

RPN-9—10 a.m.—Memphis vs. Milwaukee
9 p.m.—Detroit vs. Indiana

Super Bowl tickets rare

DETROIT—PLAYERS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES with sweaty palms and nervous stomachs as Super Bowl XL approaches.

For diehard fans, the ones who have come to Detroit with a wad of cash and no tickets, anxiety will start hitting them like fourth and goal.

Where can you buy tickets if you don't already have them?

Scalpers are always an option if you are willing to pull out hundreds or even thousands in cash in front of a stranger for a ticket that may or may not be genuine.

One woman recently was charged with selling fans $42,000 in fake tickets for Sunday's game. As usual, authorities are cautioning fans to consider the source for their ticket purchases.

Even so, the stranger on the street is the usual source for Joanie DeKoker of Anaheim, California, who has been to 12 Super Bowls.

It is a tradition that began in 1991 for this Buffalo Bills fan. She went to all four games the Bills played in the 1990s and kept on going most years after that.

"You have to be careful," said DeKoker. *NYTNS*

Hingis surprises Sharapova

TOKYO—FORMER WORLD NO. 1 MARTINA Hingis upset defending champion and top-seeded Maria Sharapova on Saturday to advance to the finals of the Pan Pacific Open.

Hingis, who entered the tournament as a wild card, relied on solid groundstrokes on her way to a 6-3, 6-1 win over Sharapova at Tokyo's Metropolitan Gymnasium that took just one hour and 6 minutes.

"It feels good to be in the finals once again," said Hingis. "I never thought I would make it this far."

With a 4-3 lead in the first set, Hingis broke Sharapova to go up 5-3 when her return hit the net and fell in on Sharapova's side. She then held serve to take the opening set. *AP*

JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 03
Series of 2006

Subject : Enforcement of Regulation on the Implementation of the NCPP on Motor Vehicles under the Revised Chemical Control Order (CCO) for Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS) (DENR Administrative Order No. 2004-08, Series of 2004).

Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990); Republic Act No. 8749 (The Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999); Resolution No. 25 dated 10 March 1993 of the Senate of the Philippines ratifying the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and Resolution No. 86 dated March 19, 2001 of the Senate of the Philippines ratifying Copenhagen Amendments; the Chemical Control Order for Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), DENR Administrative Order No. 2000-18 and DAO 2002-22 series of 2004; Memorandum of Agreement dated 29 April, 2003; and to strengthen the legal infrastructure to support the implementation of the Philippine National CFC Phase-out, the following Administrative Order is jointly issued to implement the Revised Chemical Control Order (DENR Administrative Order No. 2004-08, series of 2004.

Section 1 - Declaration of Policy

It is the policy of the state to regulate, control, restrict or prohibit the import, export, use, manufacture, distribution, processing, storage, possession and sale of Ozone-Depleting Substances to abate or minimize their risks and hazards to the stratospheric ozone, public health and the environment.

Section 2 - Coverage

This Joint Administrative Order covers roles and functions of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) and the Department of Transportation and Communication-Land Transportation Office (DOTC-LTO) in the implementation of the DAO 2004-08 known as the Revised Chemical Control Orders for Ozone Depleting Substances with particular emphasis on the pertinent provisions of sections 4, 5, 8, 11 and 12 thereof and in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement dated 29 April 2003, particularly Sections I, III paragraph 1 and 2, and IV, thereof.

Section 3 - Definition of Terms

Unless inconsistent with the context or subject matter, the following terms are defined as follows:

Revised Chemical Control Order (CCO) for Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) - known as DENR Administrative Order No. 2004-08 which mandates DENR to ban, limit and/or regulate the use, manufacture, import, export, transport, processing, possession or sale of ODS.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) - a family of chemicals that contain chlorine, fluorine and carbon used as refrigerants aerosol propellants, cleaning solvents and in the manufacture of foam.

DENR - the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

DOTC - the Department of Transportation and Communications

DOLE - the Department of Labor and Employment

EMB - 'Environmental Management Bureau

LTO - Land Transportation Office and its district offices

MAC - Mobile Air Conditioners used in motor vehicles

Montreal Protocol - the Protocol to the Vienna Convention signed in 1987 which commits Parties to take concrete measures to protect the ozone layer by freezing, reducing or ending production and consumption of controlled substances, as amended.

NCPP - National CFC Phase-out Plan

TESDA - Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

Back Conversion - the act of charging with CFC a system designed for and/or using non-CFC.

Section 4 - Prohibited Acts

Among the acts prohibited by the Revised Chemical Control Orders as enumerated in Section 11 thereof are back conversion and the use of CFC's in Mobile Air Conditioners (MACs) starting 2006 in motor vehicles manufactured and/or initially registered from 1999 onwards, and starting 2012 in all motor vehicles.

Section 5 - Implementation of Restriction

5.1 The DOTC-LTO shall be the lead agency that shall implement the restrictions provided for under Section 4 hereof; The DENR-EMB and the DOLE-TESDA shall render support to the DOTC-LTO in the manner herein provided.

5.2 In the implementation of the restrictions as herein stated, the DOTC-LTO shall exercise the following powers and functions:

a) Prohibit starting January 2006 the renewal of registration of all vehicles manufactured and or initially registered from January 1, 1999 onwards if their MAC contains CFC;
b) Inspect all motor vehicles on their Mobile Air Conditioning (MAC) Systems prior to registration, in accordance with the Manual for MAC System Inspection and Refrigeration Identification;
c) Require all motor vehicles owners/operators applying for registration to specify in the Motor Vehicle Inspection Report (MVIR) form information on MAC systems and refrigerant types;
d) Designate and maintain teams that will conduct random inspection of MACs in the different areas comprising its district offices and apprehend violators;
e) Maintain records and data on refrigerant type of all motor vehicles inspected and provide such information to DENR-EMB as required;
f) Update the DENR-EMB annually on the state of CFC usage in MACs;
g) Conduct public awareness campaign in coordination with the DENR-EMB, explaining laws, rules and regulations, as well as policy statements on MAC systems;
h) Organize trainings of MAC inspection teams in coordination with DENR-EMB. The training shall be conducted by DENR-EMB and DOLE-TESDA
i) Impose and collect all the allowable fines and penalties and recommend the filing of the necessary criminal actions against violators.

5.3 The DENR-EMB shall exercise the following responsibilities:

a) Provide all technical assistance and the necessary equipment to the LTO in the enforcement of MAC inspection;
b) Conduct public awareness campaign in cooperation with the LTO;
c) Conduct and organize trainings for MAC inspection teams in cooperation with the LTO, and DOLE-TESDA;
d) Enlist the assistance of the LTO in the prosecution of criminal cases against violators. For this purpose, LTO may recommend the filing of necessary criminal actions against violators.
e) Prepare and adopt a manual for MAC System Inspection and Refrigerant Identification

5.4 The DOLE-TESDA, in coordination with DENR-EMB, shall conduct the training of the inspection teams organized by DOTC-LTO.

Section 6 - Inspection of Vehicles

6.1 All motor vehicles shall be subjected to inspection of their Mobile Air Conditioning Systems prior to registration.
6.2 Inspection of MACs shall be conducted only by personnel trained by DOLE-TESDA duly designated by DOTC-LTO.
6.3 Inspection shall be conducted in accordance with the manual describing the procedures for determining the type of refrigerant in MAC systems and the manner and method of inspection.
6.4 Motor vehicles may be presented for inspection for MACs within a period of ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled date of registration.

Section 7 - Data Base Generation and Maintenance

7.1 The DOTC-LTO shall require motor vehicles owners/operators applying for registration to specify in the Motor Vehicle Inspection Report (MVIR) form information on MAC systems and refrigerant types.
7.2 The DOTC-LTO and its district offices shall keep and preserve the records and data of all motor vehicles inspected.
7.3 The DOTC-LTO shall include in the Motor Vehicle Registration Receipts (MVRR) information on MAC systems and refrigerant types and maintain a database of said information
7.4 the DOTC-LTO shall annually update the DENR on the status of CFC-usage in MACs.

Section 8 - Information, Education and Communication

The DOTC-LTO, in coordination with DENR-EMB, shall conduct public awareness campaign by all available means, explaining laws, rules and regulations as well as policy statements on MAC system.

Section 9 - Fines and Penalties

Any person, natural or juridical, including government officials and employees who participate in the commission of any act which is violative of any provisions of this Administrative Order shall be administratively and/or criminally charged pursuant to the provisions of the Revised Chemical Control Order (DENR DAO 2004-08); Republic Act 6969; Republic ACT 8749 and other applicable laws, rules and regulations which are all reproduced herein by reference.

Motor vehicle owners apprehended by random inspection teams for the first time using CFC in their MAC shall be given appropriate warning and instruction to convert to non CFC. Subsequent apprehension shall make them liable for the fines and penalties provided for herein.

Section 10 - Construction

These Rules and Regulations shall be liberally construed to carry out the national policy to regulate, control, restrict or prohibit the import, export, use, manufacturing, distribution, processing, storage, possession and sale of ozone depleting substances to abate or minimize their risks and hazards to the stratospheric ozone public health and the environment

Section 11 - Adoption of Manual

The Manual for MAC System Inspection and Refrigerant Identification prepared by the DENR-EMB is hereby adopted and made integral part of these Rules

Section 12 - Separability Clause

If any provision of this Order is declared void for unconstitutional by a competent court, the other provisions herein shall continue to be in force and effective and shall not in any way be affected by the provision so declared void unconstitutional.

Section 13 - Repealing Clause

All Rules and Regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Joint Administrative Order are hereby revised, amended, modified and/or superseded as the case may be.

Section 14 - Amendments

The Joint Administrative Order may be amended and/or modified from time to time by the Department of Transportation and Communications and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Section 15 - Effectivity

This Joint Administrative Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

(Sgd.) LEANDRO T. MENDOZA
Secretary, DOTC

(Sgd.) MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Secretary, DOTC

(PDI - Feb 5, 2006)

Mendoza rules Malarayat

LIPA CITY—MARK MENDOZA and Ferdie Dimaisip ran away with low gross and low net honors, respectively, in the recent eighth Chairman's Cup of the Mount Malarayat here.

Mendoza, the businessman son of transportation and communications secretary Leandro, shot a gross 70 at the Malipunyo and Makulot nines for a net 64 and top honors in the 18-hole event held in honor of Malarayat chair Arch. Antonio Turalba.

Dimaisip, also a new generation member of the ultra-modern complex, played with a handicap of 22 and signed for a net 10-under-par 62 after shooting a gross 84 also over the same nines.

The turnout easily exceeded the previous high of the event as a total of 240 players teed off with proceeds going to the scholarship fund Turalba put up for Batangas province students and employees of Malarayat.

Gerald Katigbak and Amel Barro were low gross and net Division I champions after a 67 and 63, respectively, with Rep. Danton Bueser shooting an 85 for a net 67 for the Division II low gross trophy.

Mike Tan shot an 89 for a net 65 and Lito Magsino tallied 93 for 66 for top Division III honors with Princess Katigbak tallying 66 to win Ladies' Division I low gross diadem.

Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of Dolores
Province of Eastern Samar

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date February 5, 2006
Contract ID No.: SP-078-IN-01
World Bank Loan No 446PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the *Construction of Riverbank Development.* Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The *Municipality of Dolores, Eastern Samar* invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the *Construction of Riverbank Development* consists of Embankment, Drainage & Slope Protection structure, River Control Component & Concrete Pavement.
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***February 6, 2006 during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Municipal Engineering Office, Dolores, Eastern Samar*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Seven Thousand Pesos (P7,000.00)*** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ***ninety (90) days*** after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of ***Nine Hundred Thousand Pesos (P900,000.00)*** in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the ***BAC Secretariat, SB Session Hall, 3rd floor Municipal Building Dolores, Eastern Samar on March 8, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held on ***February 22, 2006; 10:00 A.M. at the SB Session Hall 3rd floor, Municipal Building Municipality of Dolores, Eastern Samar.***

(Sgd.) Engr. JUDITH P. ORAYA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – February 5, 2006)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 01-08-2006

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder

Name of Project: Three (3) lots Private Security Agency Services

Lot	Location/Branch	Number Of Guards	Approved Budget
1	Airport Casino Filipino Casino Filipino-Heritage	74 (SG-56 / LG-18) 50 (SG-38 / LG-12)	Forty Two Million Nine Hundred Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Two Pesos & 96/100 (P 42,904,872 96)
2	Casino Filipino - Hyatt Casino Filipino - Sta. Ana	42 (SG-30 / LG-12) 46 (SG-40 / LG-6)	Thirty Million Four Hundred Forty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Nineteen Pesos & 52/100 (P 30,448,619 52)
3	Casino Filipino - Pavilion Corporate Security Unit	61 (SG-43 / LG-18) 25 (SG-25 / LG-0)	Twenty Nine Million Seven Hundred Fifty Six Thousand Six Hundred Five Pesos & 44/100 (P 29,756,605 44)

NOTE Bidders should bid for one (1) lot only.
Contract Duration : Two (2) years
Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only contractors duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita Mla., Tel. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the Bid Documents available for issuance from **February 2, 2006 to February 27, 2006** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Twenty One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Two Pesos & 43/100 (Php 21,452.43) for Lot 1, Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Four Pesos & 31/100 (Php 15,224.31) for Lot 2 and Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight Pesos & 30/100 (Php 14,878.30).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
Pre-Bid Conference	February 15, 2006 (3pm)
Submission of Bids	February 28, 2006 (2pm)
Opening of Bids	February 28, 2006 (2pm onwards)

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidders and a third party, including any act which restricts suppresses or nullifies or tend to restrict, suppress or nullify competition or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (RA 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) RENE C. FIGUEROA
Chairperson, BAC 2
(PDI–Feb 5 & 12, 2006)

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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DID YOU KNOW THAT...

... Nicole Kidman was originally cast as Mrs. Smith in the movie Mr. & Mrs. Smith.

WHY SHE'S ONE OF 2005'S BEST

Young actress Q'Orianka Kilcher plays Pocahontas opposite Colin Farrell's Captain John Smith in Terrence Malick's "The New World." IN Hollywood's Ruben Nepales explains why she was one of his favorite interviewees last year. ***See story on Page A2-8.***

Richard is Captain Barbell

By Marinel R. Cruz

RICHARD GUTIERREZ is the next Captain Barbell.

The actor is tight-lipped about his next big project with the Kapuso network, but a GMA 7 insider has revealed that the actor has agreed to bring to life on TV the Pinoy super hero created by the late writer and publisher, Mars Ravelo.

According to the Kapuso insider, two directors will work on "Captain Barbell." One of them is Dominic Zapata, who was also part of "Sugo" and, earlier, "Darna" (also by Ravelo).

Another industry source said GMA 7 is considering Lore Reyes, Zapata's "Sugo" co-director, to work on the new show. The source added that Richard will also play the role of Enteng, Captain Barbell's alter-ego.

"Something big's coming for Richard, from GMA 7. Major projects are lined up for him this whole year," GMA 7 SVP for Entertainment Wilma Galvante announced during the "Sugo" thanksgiving party last week.

"Sugo" airs its final episode on Feb. 10. "Captain Barbell" is slated for a March release, said the source.

First, a break

Meanwhile, Richard said, he is spending the coming weeks away from work: "I'm considering visiting Brazil or Australia. I've not received a copy of the script for my next project, but as soon as I do, I will study it. I will have to recreate myself and, therefore, also to train physically and emotionally."

Richard added: "I promise it's going to be something nice."

"Captain Barbell" first appeared in Pinoy Komiks Magasin in 1963, according to the website www.internationalhero.co.uk

Captain Barbell's alter-ego, Enteng, transforms into a super hero when he lifts a magical golden barbell given to him by a stranger.

Bob Soler was the first actor to play the role of the local superhero as well as Enteng, in 1965. The next Captain Barbell movie had comedy king Dolphy in the lead role. Edu reprised the role in the '80s, with Herbert Bautista as Enteng.

Ogie Alcasid played Enteng to Bong Revilla's Captain Barbell in the version shown in 2003.

DID YOU KNOW...

Why did INQUIRER columnist Tessa Prieto-Valdes pass up on the celebrity edition of "Pinoy Big Brother"? She gave us a handful of reasons: "I'm nursing my baby Athena. Can't wake up before noon. No cell phone. No parlor. No breakfast in bed. No shopping. No daily mass and no INQUIRER! If ever I do join, it would be only for a day—I'm sure I'd be the first to get kicked out!"

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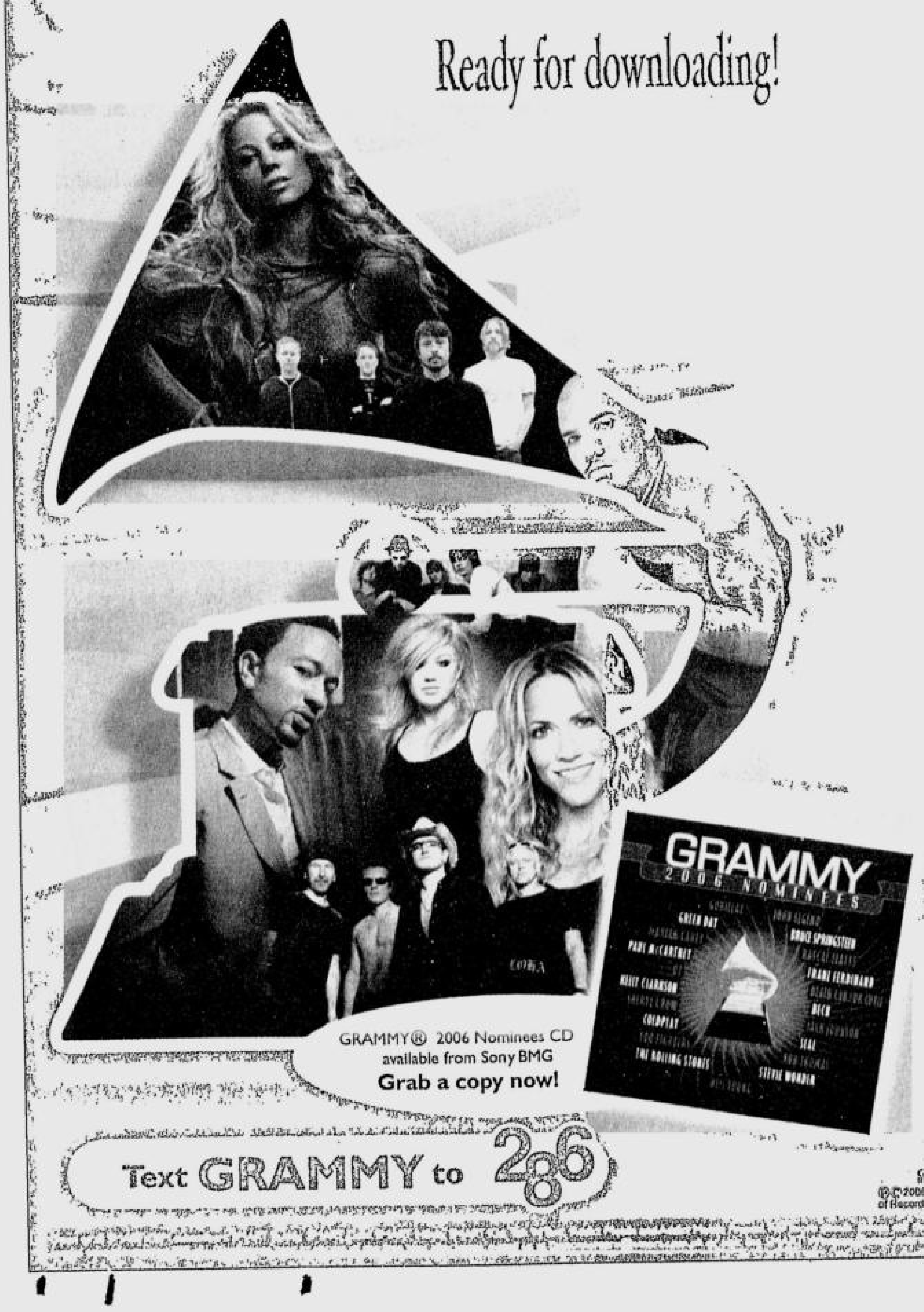

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Coldplay	Speed Of Sound	103068
Paul Mccartney	Fine Line	104100
Mariah Carey	It's Like That	102509
U2	City Of Blinding Lights	103745
Sheryl Crow	Good Is Good	103916
Jack Johnson	Sitting, Waiting, Wishing	104103
Stevie Wonder	From The Bottom Of My Heart	104090
Beck	E-Pro	104104
John Legend	Ordinary People	102750
Kelly Clarkson	Since U Been Gone	103492
Franz Ferdinand	Do You Want To	103986
Bruce Springsteen	Devils & Dust	104120
Foo Fighters	Best Of You	104112
Kanye West	Diamonds From Sierra Lione	104105
Ludacris	Number One Spot	104106
Mariah Carey	Mine Again	104107
Black Eyed Peas	Don't Lie	103076
The Killers	Mr. Brightside	103328
Maroon 5	This Love	103188
Destiny's Child	Cater 2 U	103350
Amerie Feat. Eve	1 Thing	103352
The Game Feat. 50 Cent	Hate It Or Love It	104111
50 Cent	Candy Shop	102510
Black Eyed Peas	Don't Phunk With My Heart	103074
Alicia Keys	Unbreakable	103010
The Killers	All These Things That I've Done	103331
U2	Sometimes You Can't Make It On Your Own	103778
Gwen Stefani	Hollaback Girl	103072
Kanye West	Gold Digger	103919
Stevie Wonder	So What The Fuss	104109
Jamie Foxx	Creepin'	103539

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ARTIST	TITLE	KEYWORD
Black Eyed Peas	Pump It	PUMPIT
Black Eyed Peas	Don't Phunk With My Heart	DNTPHUNK
Black Eyed Peas	Don't Lie	DONTLIE
Black Eyed Peas	My Humps	MYHUMPS
The Killers	All These Things That I've Done	ALLDTHINGS
The Killers	Mr. Brightside	BRIGHTSIDE
Eminem	Like Toy Soldiers	TOYSOLDIERS
50 Cent	Candy Shop	CANDYSHOP
Mariah Carey	It's Like That	ITSLIKEDAT
Mariah Carey	We Belong Together	WEBELONG
Mariah Carey	Mine Again	MINEAGAIN
Gwen Stefani	Cool	COOL
Gwen Stefani	Hollaback Girl (CLEAN)	HOLLABACK
Gwen Stefani	Luxurious	LUXURIOUS
Stevie Wonder	So What The Fuss	FUSS1

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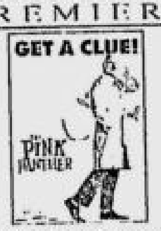

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SM Megamall Cinema 10
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12:05FS / 12:35 MF / 03:20 / 06:05
08:20 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 11:15 END

DERAILED
11:30 FS / 11:55 MF / 02:10 / 04:25 / 06:40
08:30 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 11:15 END

MEGAMALL

DERAILED
10:30 FS / 10:45 MF / 01:00 / 03:15 / 05:30
07:45 09:35 LFS / 10:00 LMF / 11:50 END

CEBU (032) 231-3876

RESERVED

UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION
10:50 FS / 11:00 MF / 01:06 / 03:12 / 05:18 / 07:24
09:10 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:15 END

DERAILED
10:50 FS / 11:00 MF / 01:06 / 03:12 / 05:18 / 07:24
09:10 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:15 END

MANILA

BLOODRAYNE
10:30 FS / 12:20 MF / 02:10 / 04:00 / 05:50 / 07:40
09:15 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:05 END

movietime

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1. DERAILED
2. WALK THE LINE
3. BLOODRAYNE
4. BIG TIME
5. ZATHURA
6. CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
7. SAW 2
8. PROOF
9. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10. UNDERWORLD 2
11. THE MAID
12. NARNIA

SM CITY STA. MESA
1. UNDERWORLD 2
2. ZATHURA
3. BLOODRAYNE
4. DERAILED
5. SAW 2
6. CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
7. WALK THE LINE
8. NARNIA
9. PROOF
10. DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BICUTAN
1. BLOODRAYNE
2. DERAILED
3. SAW 2
4. UNDERWORLD 2

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1. DERAILED
2. UNDERWORLD 2
3. SAW 2
4. THE MAID

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1. NARNIA
2. CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
3. BIG TIME
4. SAW 2
5. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6. BLUE MOON
7. UNDERWORLD 2
8. ZATHURA
9. BLOODRAYNE
10. DERAILED
11. KING KONG
12. THE MAID

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1. UNDERWORLD 2
2. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3. SAW 2
4. BLOODRAYNE
5. ZATHURA
6. PROOF
7. WALK THE LINE
8. DERAILED
9. BIG TIME
10. RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1. DERAILED
2. SAW 2
3. BLOODRAYNE
4. UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1. ZATHURA.
2. UNDERWORLD 2
3. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4. SAW 2
5. BLOODRAYNE
6. PINOY LOVEFEST
7. WALK THE LINE
8. DERAILED

SM CITY MANILA
1. NARNIA
2. DERAILED
3. SAW 2
4. UNDERWORLD 2
5. ZATHURA
6. BLOODRAYNE
7. PROOF
8. CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
9. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10. THE MAID
11. BIG TIME
12. WALK THE LINE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1. UNDERWORLD 2
2. DERAILED
3. BLOODRAYNE
4. SAW 2
5. PROOF
6. DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1. ZATHURA
2. DERAILED
3. NARNIA
4. THE MAID
5. RUMOR HAS IT
6. DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BAGUIO
1. DERAILED
2. ZATHURA
3. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4. RUMOR HAS IT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1. UNDERWORLD 2
2. ZATHURA
3. CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
4. DERAILED

SM CITY BACOOR
1. BIG TIME
2. ZATHURA
3. SAW 2
4. BLOODRAYNE
5. UNDERWORLD 2
6. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
7. DERAILED
8. HALF LIGHT

SM CITY MARILAO
1. DERAILED
2. THE MAID
3. ZATHURA
4. DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1. DERAILED
2. ZATHURA
3. RUMOR HAS IT
4. THE MAID

SM CITY LUCENA
1. ZATHURA
2. SAINT ANGE
3. LITTLE MANHATTAN
4. DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BATANGAS
1. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2. ZATHURA
3. DERAILED
4. RUMOR HAS IT

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1. RESERVED
2. UNDERWORLD 2
3. DERAILED
4. LITTLE MANHATTAN
5. NARNIA
6. THE MAID
7. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8. ZATHURA

SM CITY ILOILO
1. ST. ANGE
2. RESERVED
3. DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4. ZATHURA
5. RUMOR HAS IT
6. DERAILED
7. RESERVED
8. THE MAN

SM CITY DAVAO
1. DERAILED
2. SAINT ANGE
3. ZATHURA
4. AN UNFINISHED LIFE
5. LITTLE MANHATTAN
6. DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1. DERAILED
2. FAMILY STONE
3. WHO'S YOUR DADDY
4. ZATHURA

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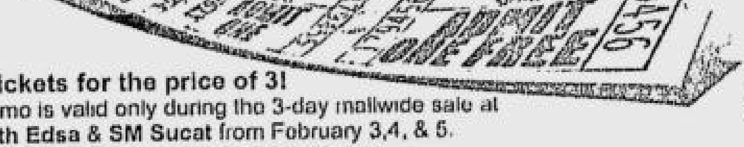

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The NEW WORLD

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

A whole 'New World' for Q'Orianka Kilcher

From page A2-8

most fascinating interviewees in 2005, but due to the ongoing awards season frenzy, we are writing about our session with her only now.

Q'Orianka (pronounced Cory-ahn-ka) plays Pocahontas opposite **Colin Farrell**'s Captain John Smith in Terrence Malick's beautiful, quietly stirring "The New World." Let us count the ways that Q'Orianka fascinated us:

She is only 15 but her confidence, gained from busking (she began singing in public places at age 6 in Hawaii, earning as much as $300 a day), was remarkable. When her family moved to the mainland, she sang at the open-air mall, Third Street Promenade, in Santa Monica, California, and made $2,000 a night.

Asked to give us a sample of her singing, Q'Orianka blew us away with a bluesy number.

She said she sewed the dress that she wore to the premiere of "The New World"; that she was starting her own environmental/human rights organization; and that she was planning to arrive at the premiere in a fuel-cell car to promote less dependence on oil (she did).

She was only 14 when she did "The New World"—a passionate love story set in the epic context of America's beginnings in the 1600s—portraying a woman, wife and mother. There is one scene where she chooses between Colin's Smith and John Rolfe, an honest, steady widower played by **Christian Bale**. Q'Orianka tackles the scene subtly but movingly.

We think "The New World," Terrence's fourth film in 32 years, was one of the best films of 2005. It is a fine addition to the director's acclaimed movies—"The Thin Red Line" (1998), "Days of Heaven" (1978) and "Badlands" (1973). Entrancing and quietly hypnotic, "The New World" is a gift from a master filmmaker who goes against today's mass fare of loud, fast-paced yet empty blockbusters. Majestically filmed in Virginia, not far from the actual Jamestown settlement where the story took place, "The New World" recently earned an Oscar nomination for Best Cinematography.

Refreshingly candid, Q'Orianka said her Alaskan/Swiss mother left home as a teenager, traveled the globe and met Q'Orianka's dad in South America—he is a member of the Peruvian Quecha/Indian tribe. Q'Orianka was born in Germany. The family went all over the world again and then settled in Hawaii. For the past six years, LA has been home for the actress.

Q'Orianka said matter-of-factly, "My dad comes around every four or five years for about one or two days and then disappears again." The singer Jewel is her second cousin but they haven't met.

Most interestingly, she did not know who Colin Farrell was until she won the plum Pocahontas role over more popular, established actresses.

Did you know Terrence Malick before this?

I didn't have a clue. Now I do. He was just so wonderful to work with. He was very clear about how he wanted to tell the story of John Smith and Pocahontas. I think it was so poetic.

Did you bother to watch Terrence's movies?

After the filming, I watched "The Thin Red Line." I loved it. I was like, wow.

Were you excited to work with Colin?

I didn't know who he was. I was just like oh, great, Colin Farrell. As the relationship between John Smith and Pocahontas was growing during the filming, I kind of had to let myself fall in love with him. Colin is a really wonderful person [and] experienced actor. He helped me get into the flow of things. I've been kind of a perfectionist. He told me that [acting shouldn't be] about being perfect but staying true to yourself and to the spirit of your character.

In real life, who would you choose between Colin and Christian?

I would say Colin as John Smith because he's a free spirit. I was raised to be free-spirited. Stability is nice, I suppose, but it takes the adventure out of life.

Are you curious about your Peruvian heritage?

If I have some free time in 2006, I want to go to Peru for three months, live with a family up in the mountains and re-learn my native language, Quechua. I feel like a little piece of me is missing if I don't.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

> She had no clue who Colin Farrell was, until she won the coveted role of Pocahontas over more established actresses. During filming, she 'sort of' fell in love with him

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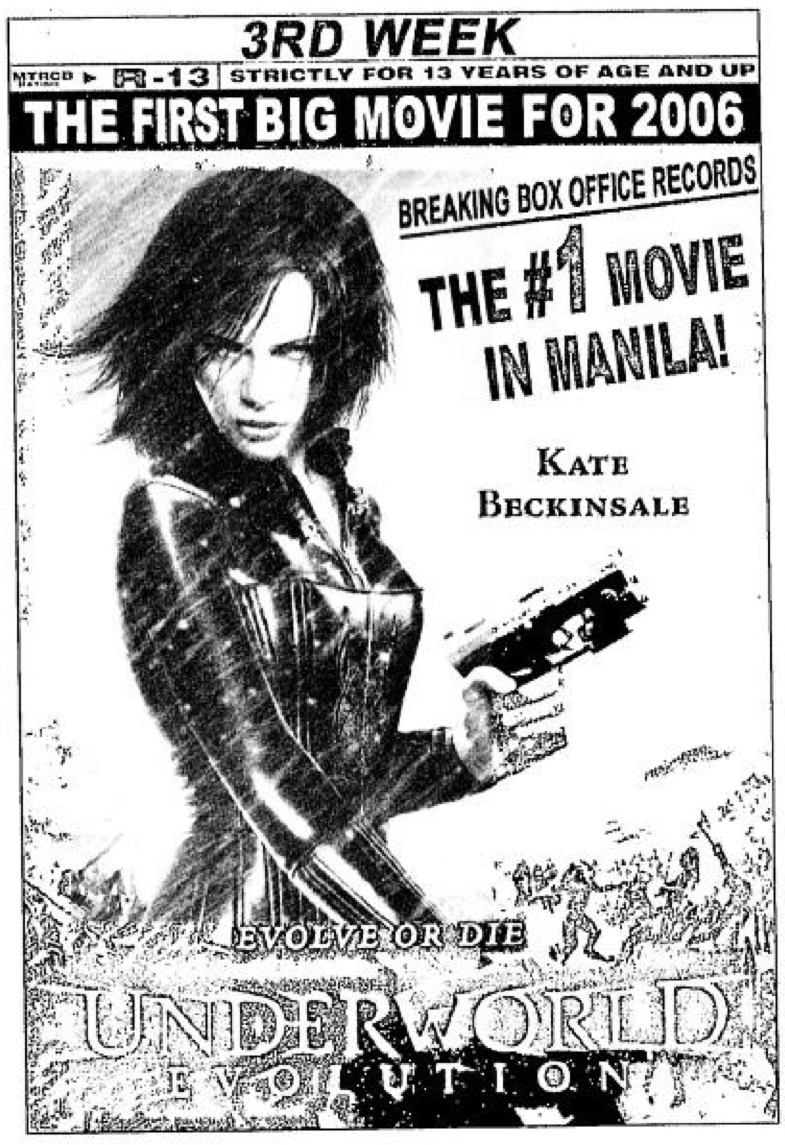

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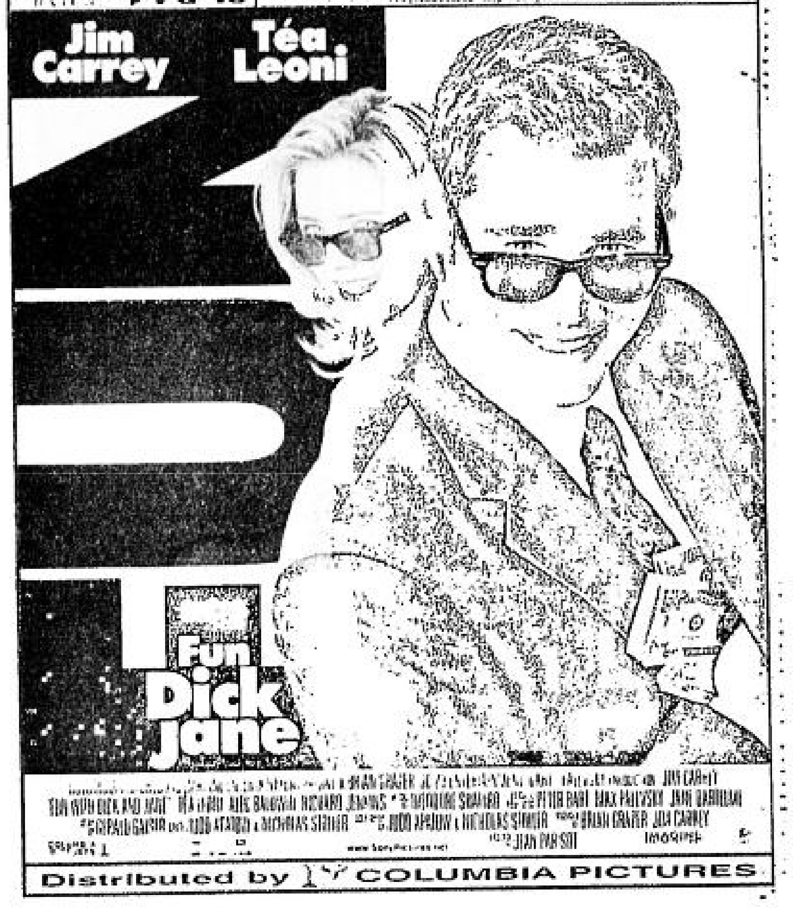

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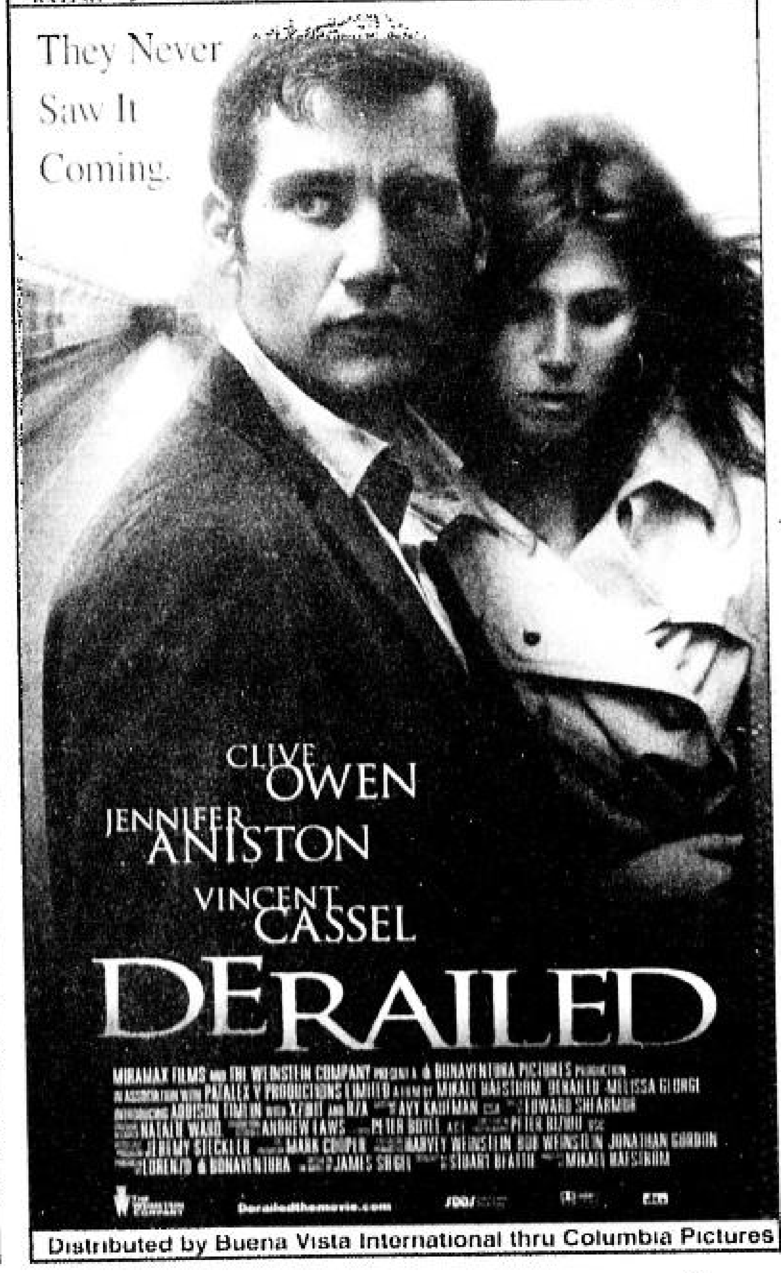

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A trip to cheaters' land

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

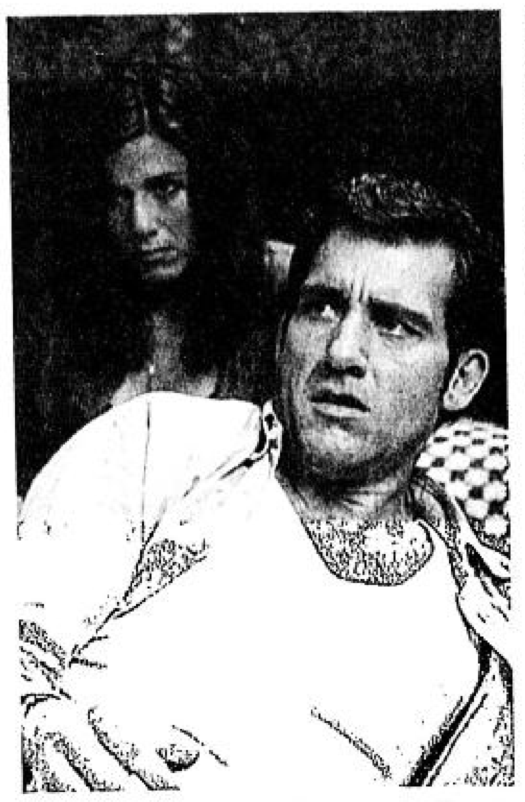
REVIEW

AFTER A DECADE OF PLAYING NICE GAL Rachel in "Friends," Jennifer Aniston takes on a new role that may seem like a natural progression of that well-developed sitcom character, at least at first. As Lucinda in "Derailed," Aniston is that seemingly happy, yet unfulfilled, wife and mother, who pays for a stranger's train fare. It's not hard to understand why she did: Charles (Clive Owen) seems like a decent person.

Sparks fly, never mind that they were both married, with kids. An affair begins—or so we're led to believe.

"Derailed" is a thriller, after all, and we're bound to witness some supposedly unspeakable things that should keep us glued to our seats, and not because we're snoozing. We see the would-be lovers' hopes of getting it on dashed as an armed robber (villainy incarnate Vincent Cassel) enters their hotel room just before they consummate their hasty attraction. Though violently attacked by the thief, Lucinda and Charles keep mum about their ordeal, lest their families find out.

While unoriginal and not entirely unpredictable, the movie has competent actors working for it. Direction by Mikael Hafstrom is also good. He plants red herrings early on with well-placed narrative techniques. One gets the impression that there is something amiss from the start, but because Owen and Aniston are a clever onscreen pairing, we get distracted, and it's all for the story's benefit. Certain scenes telegraph crucial surprises, though, which end up overstressed.



JENNIFER Aniston and Clive Owen as ill-fated illicit lovers in "Derailed."

But Vincent Cassel, again, is diabolically relentless and lends a disturbing ingredient to the illicit affair-gone-horribly-wrong yarn. The guy plays to the hilt yet another unrepentant monster. He's a little too overpowering, but Owen, who plays the wimpy, blackmailed Charles, balances out the tormentor's mania. Then again, Charles isn't a total pushover, so the comeuppance is expectedly worth it; the revenge, quite sweet.

It's when the story transforms into a payback movie much later that it loses its sense of danger and foreboding. What stays long after is how deftly the issue of one single betrayal—and its repercussions—was tackled. "Derailed" is a regurgitated morality tale about mistakes biting you in the posterior, yes, but it's a compelling one, at least for as long as you refuse, or fail, to piece together the glowing clues.

WITH co-star Anthony Hopkins a

Gwyneth high-pitch

NEW YORK—IN HAPPIER, SANI alive in flashbacks—Anthony H cian in "Proof" describes the sens thought by saying the machinery

In a film, though—especially sions of realistic heft and em shouldn't be able to see the machi it. It should just happen. Its effec you and leave you feeling differen theater door.

Director John Madden's Pr Pulitzer Prize-and Tony-winning tries very hard and very noisily About Something. It presents its ness—whether it's inherited evitable—with the volume cons most of the sound and fury comes

Nasal tirade

Gwyneth Paltrow was far mor trayal of instability as Sylvia Pla nuance to her performance as th veyed a believable darkness. "Shakespeare in Love," which e Oscar, she was subtle, vulnerable.

Here, as Hopkins' daughter, C played under Madden's directio Paltrow is painfully one-note, pitched and shrill. Confusion, an these feelings come bursting tirade.

There is an early scene, thoug ine's 27th birthday, when she Robert, about her fear of losing h wonders whether she shares her as his estimable mathematic abil was "when it started."

He assures her, "Crazy people ing whether they're nuts."

Intimate scenes

Paltrow also has some sweet, intimate scenes with Jake Gyllenhaal as Hal, a former student who's organizin reams of Robert's notebooks after his death—the mathematical proofs he's been working on at his home office as his mind decayed. Gyllenhaal provides much-needed buoyancy and light; he ha mastered banter (the screenplay, co-written by Auburn and Rebecca Miller, still retains some of its theatric rhythms) and he's just charismatic enough to make you believe he's a math geek with life.

Catherine also must conten with the condescendin (though well-intentione meddling from her older sist Claire (Hope Davis), a sm yuppie who has swooped ba into Chicago from New Yo She brings bananas and bag and conditioner with jojo (which amazingly, Catherin has never heard of) and insi on hosting a reception after t funeral.

More histrionics

"You have to have som thing. People expect it," Cla says brightly—and the fa that Davis make the charac so incredibly annoying is a t tament to how well she's do her job. "I think Dad wo have wanted us to have a go time."

The discovery of a com cated proof in Robert's d drawer changes the dyna between Catherine and bot these people. It appears t Robert wrote it, which wo suggest that the machin was indeed working at time he claimed. Catherine says wrote it but never told anyo and fears that having don may have contributed to father's eventual demise. ing in a heap on the floor rocking in Claire's arms, wails repeatedly, "I ne should have written it."

But nobody believes her the mystery of its author like nearly every other elem in the film, only leads to m histrionics. AP

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s her mad mathematician father in "Proof."

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R TIMES—WHEN HE'S
pkins' mad mathemati-
ition of lucid, analytical
s working.
one with such preten-
tional resonance—you
nery working, or to hear
s should just wash over
t when you walk out the

of, adapted from the
play by David Auburn,
to be powerful, to be
ideas about mental ill-
whether it's in-
stently turned up. And
from its star.

convincing in her por-
in "Sylvia." There was
suicidal poet, she con-
similarly, in Madden's
rned her a best-actress
lovely.
therine—a role she also
on the London stage—
nd that note is high-
er, fear, frustration—all
rth as one big, nasal

, on the eve of Cather-
talking to her father,
r mind as she ages. She
father's insanity as well
ty, and asks how old he

on't sit around wonder-

> She was far more convincing in 'Sylvia'

REVIEW

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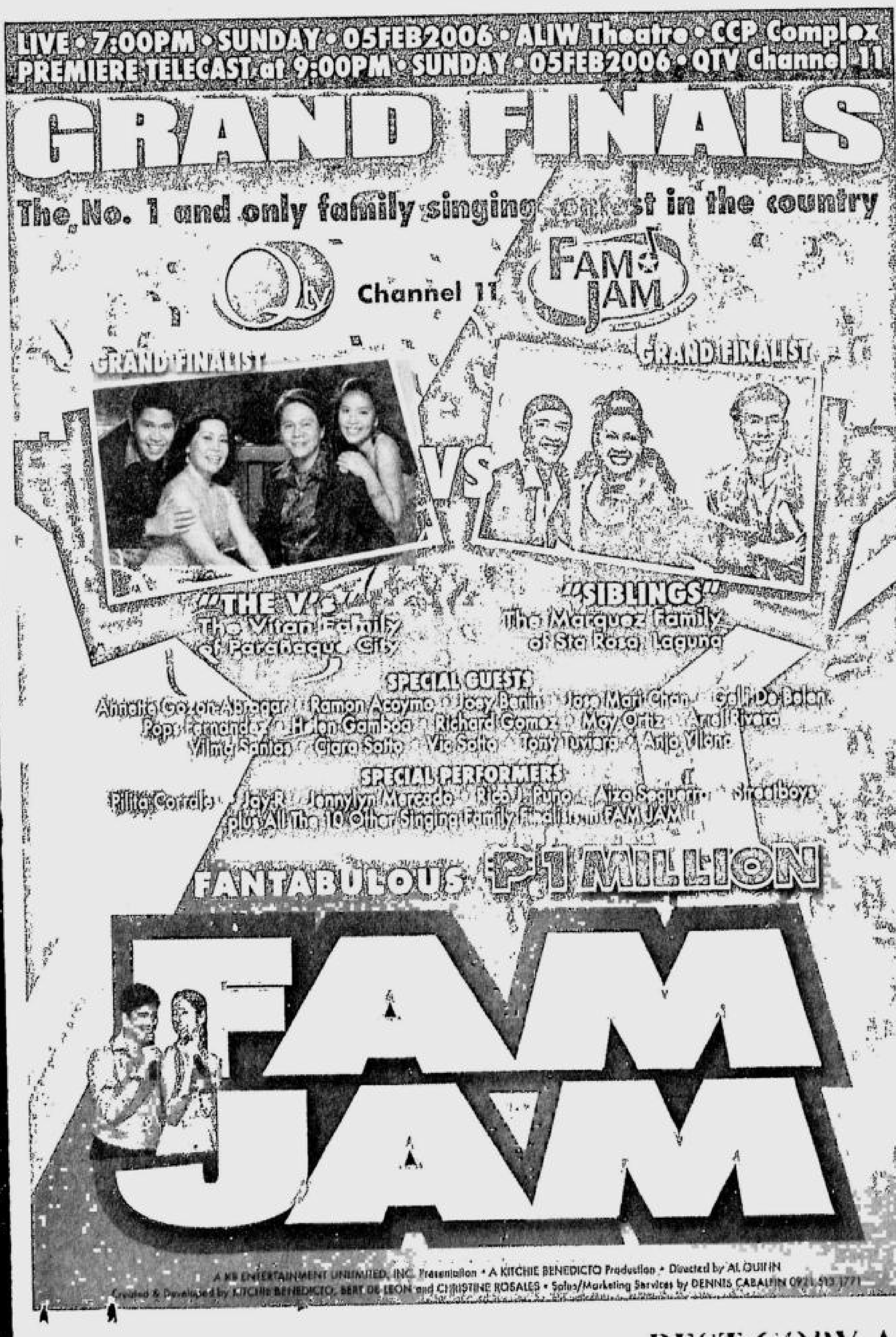

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GALLERIA	632-9116
1 ZATHURA • THX 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 UNDERWORLD 2 12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50
2 BLOODRAYNE 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	7 RUMOR HAS IT 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 DERAILED 12:00 2:30 5.00 7:30 10:00	8 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 SAW 2 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00	9 PROOF 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 WALK THE LINE 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00	10 DON'T GIVE UP ON US 12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

ERMITA	536-7809 to 12
1 BLOODRAYNE	10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
2 ZATHURA 12:00 2:00 4:00 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 6:15 8:10 10:00	5 DERAILED 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
3 UNDERWORLD 2 12:00 2:00 4:00 6.00 8:00 10:00	6 PROOF 10:30 12:30 2:20 4:10 6:00 8.00 9:50
4 WALK THE LINE 10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50	7 SAW 2 10.20 12:20 2.20 4:20 6:20 8:20 9:50

METRO EAST	682-8193 • 682-8190
1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 1:00 3.00 5:00 7:00 9:00	5 BLOODRAYNE 11.50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
2 DERAILED 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9.05	6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00
3 ZATHURA 11:05 1:35 4.05 6:35 9.05	7 SAW 2 12:50 2:50 4:50 6.50 9:00
4 UNDERWORLD 2 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00	8 PROOF 12:50 2.50 4:50 6.50 9.00

NOVALICHES	936-3231 / 936-3229-30
1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2	4 UNDERWORLD 2
2 ZATHURA	5 SAW 2
3 HALF LIGHT	6 DERAILED

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1 The Chronicles of NARNIA	1 DERAILED
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3 RESERVE	3 UNDERWORLD 2
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4 RUMOR HAS IT	4 DERAILED
5 THE MAID	

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3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US	3 ZATHURA
4 DERAILED	4 RUMOR HAS IT
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2	5 THE MAID
6 SAW 2	6 DERAILED

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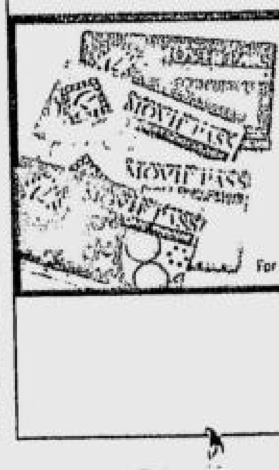
1 DERAILED	1 DERAILED
2 ZATHURA	2 ZATHURA
3 JARHEAD	3 JARHEAD
4 LITTLE MANHATTAN	4 THE MAN
5 MOURNING GIRLS	5 RUMOR HAS IT
6 WHO'S YOUR DADDY?	6 SAINT ANGE



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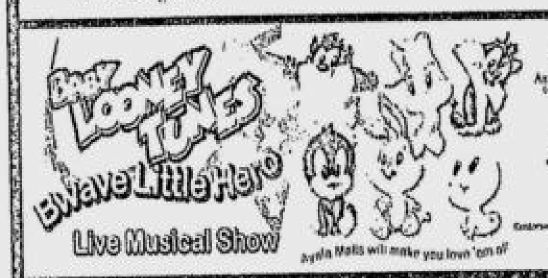

Glorietta Activity Center
Feb 17, 4pm & 7pm
Feb 18, 1pm & 6pm
Feb 19, 11am, 3pm & 6pm

Activity Center
Feb 24, 3pm & 6pm
Feb 25, 11am, 3pm & 6pm
Feb 26, 3pm & 6pm

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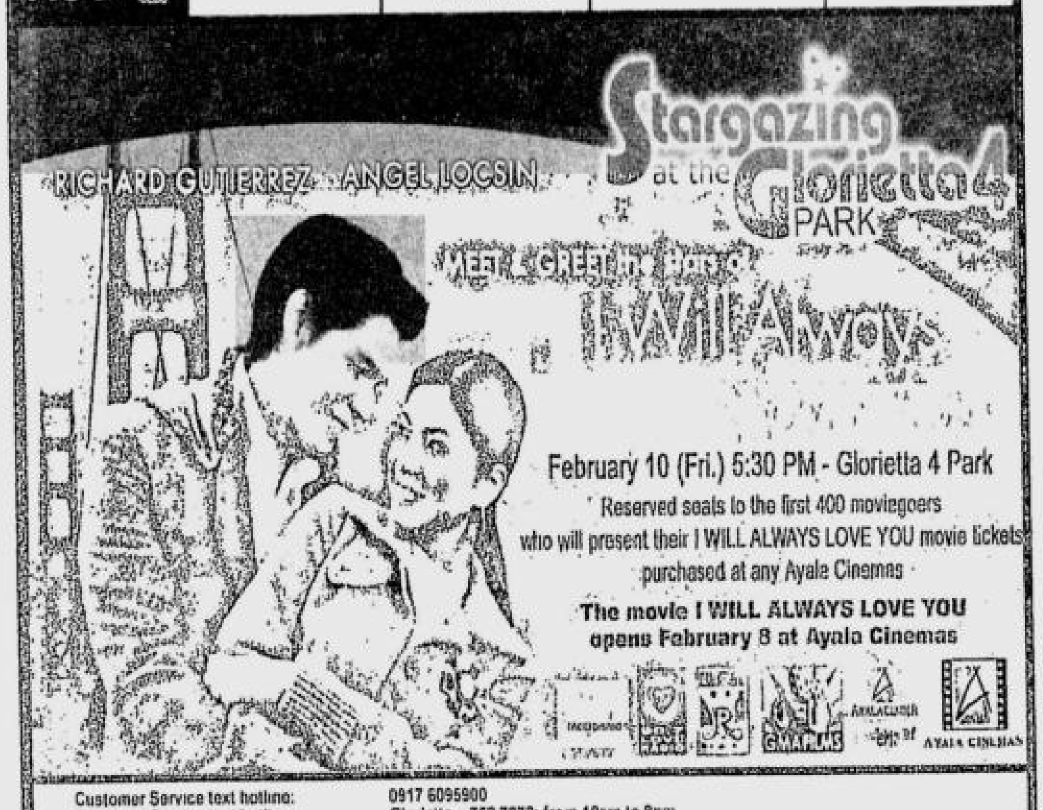
G1	1 DERAILED	2 SAW 2	3 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	4 BLOODRAYNE		
G4	1 PROOF	2 SAW 2	3 THX DERAILED GUARANTEED SEATS	4 ZATHURA	5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2	6 WALK THE LINE
G4	7 BLOODRAYNE					
GB1	1 DERAILED	2 WALK THE LINE				
GB3	1 THX DERAILED GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX WALK THE LINE GUARANTEED SEATS	3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SAW 2 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 PROOF GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	1 THX WALK THE LINE	2 PROOF	3 DERAILED	4 BLOODRAYNE	5 SAW 2	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DERAILED	2 LITTLE MANHATTAN	3 THE MAID	4 HALF LIGHT		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② UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION
③ BLOODRAYNE
④ DERAILED
⑤ SAW 2

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Quintessential quiz show back on cable TV

FANS OF "JEOPARDY," THE ULTIMATE quiz show for brainiacs and "walking encyclopedias" will be thrilled to know that, after an absence of some years, the program can now be viewed again on local screens, on the Second Avenue cable channel.

We caught the quiz show last Monday, Jan. 23 at 1:30 p.m., and marveled once again at the encyclopedic knowledge of most of its carefully handpicked contestants.

The questions asked covered topics as varied as Kinsey, Kilts, wasps, political lingo, legislatures around the world, musicals, math, Mongolia, show biz and horses—all in the span of just 30 minutes.

At first, the viewer is intimidated, by the flurry of difficult questions asked and resigns himself to simply watch the show's resident geniuses in full intellectual froth.

After a while, however, he gets bored with just being an onlooker, and timorously attempts to join the fray. And, what do you know?, he gets some answers right.

Heartened, he involves himself even more fully in the proceedings, and soon gets completely engrossed in the quiz. He gets so fired up that he even dares to beat the brilliant contestants to the draw in answering even the most difficult queries—and ends up with egg on his face.

He also "loses" a whole lot of "money"—unlike the best actual contestant of the day, who goes home with a hot $16,000 for his pains. Not bad for just half an hour of mental calisthenics and intellectual jousting.

If you're a "Jeopardy" buff and want to once again get your regular fix of its fascinating facts and trivia, you can also catch the show on Tuesday nights, as we did last week.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Feedback

FROM **Paul R. Mortel**: "I liked **Joel Lamangan**'s 'Blue Moon.' It's regrettable that he didn't win the MMFF's Best Director award, even if the movie was adjudged Best Film. There must be some inconsistency there.

"I have two observations about the film: I didn't see American soldiers in the background during the Death March. And, in the graduation scene, the American flag had too few stars. If the period was 1940, the US already had 48 states (with the admission of Arkansas to the Union in 1912).

OPM wins UN accreditation

THE ORGANISASYON ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit" recently acquired the status of associated non-government organization selected by the United Nations Department of Public Information.

The department, together with the UN Economic and Social Council, is a key focal point in the UN Secretariat for NGOs that wish to work with the organization.

OPM is the only Philippine-based organization among the 25 associated NGOs worldwide working as advocates for an array of issues. It is also the first UN-assisted artists' organization from Southeast Asia.

The Selection Committee cited OPM's partnership with UN agencies to promote the Millennium Development Goals through music.

OPM president **Mitch Valdes** expressed elation over the organization's newly acquired status. "Our association with the United Nations validates OPM's thrust toward artists' empowerment and welfare through campaigns to promote intellectual property rights protection," she observed.

Kalapana

VALENTINE'S Day will be especially memorable with the performances of Kalapana, the Hawaii-based band that popularized hits like 'The Hurt," "Nightbird" and "Real Thing."

The band performs on Feb. 13 and 14 at the PICC, and at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City on Feb. 15.

Reuniting with their Manila fans are **DJ Pratt, Malani Bilyeu, Kenji Sano, Gaylord Kalani Holomalia, Lindsay Zanuck Kapala, Manoha Garin Poliah** and **Paolo Tatsuo.**

Call 8717577-78 or 8919999.

'Forever After'

ON Feb. 10 and 11, **Regine Velasquez, Ogie Alcasid, Rico J. Puno** and **Ai Ai de las Alas** topbill a Valentine concert uniquely combining music and laughter.

The four performers are stars in their own right, so having them perform together in the same show is a special treat. Direction by **Rowell Santiago**, script by Ricky Lee and musical direction by **Raul Mitra**. Call 9267868.

Firewall'

IN his latest starrer, "Firewall," **Harrison Ford** plays the head of security at a major global bank whose wife and children are held for ransom in order to convince him to override his security protocol, so that $100M can be stolen from the bank where he works. **Richard Loncraine** directs.

ROUNDUP

CAROL Banawa at the AI tryouts.

Pinoy Idol next?

An ABC 5 insider told INQUIRER Entertainment that the network is acquiring the franchise for the US talent search "American Idol."

The source said ABC 5 started negotiating with the show's producer, Freemantle-Media, two years ago.

"Barring anything unforeseen, it's a done deal," the source said.

The local version will be called "Philippine Idol."

Meanwhile, at least two Fil-Ams have made it to Hollywood in the current AI season—Jose "Sway" Penala and Jayne Rio Santayana.

Homegrown talent Carol Banawa tried her luck in Austin, Texas where 5,000 auditioned. She wasn't among the 11 who got through.

"She told me the jurors said they liked her voice," manager Biboy Arboleda told Inquirer Entertainment. Bayani S. San Diego Jr.

Madonna & Gorrilaz

MADONNA

Los Angeles—Pop icon Madonna will team up with the "virtual" group Gorillaz for a groundbreaking number at next week's Grammy Awards.

The global queen of pop music will perform alongside a 3D color animation of the Gorillaz—a British group whose members appear as cartoon characters in their videos—during the Feb. 8 LA show in what the Recording Academy said was a first for live television in the US. *AFP*

Lovapalooza map

SHERYN Regis

The celebrity roster for Lovapalooza (Kissfest) 2006 on Feb. 11 includes: Sarah Geronimo, Nyoy Volante, Paolo Santos, Pido, Sam Milby, South Border and Spongecola in (Roxas Blvd. Baywalk) Manila; Cheska Garcia, Cueshe, Milk N Money and Stonefree in (Bayanihan Park) Angeles; Erik Santos, Jimmy Bondoc, Marco Alcaraz and Parokya ni Edgar in (FGU Business Park Ayala) Cebu; and Rachel Ann Go, Rivermaya. Sheryn Regis and Sugarfree in (Matina Town Square) Davao.

Superstars spoofed

Los Angeles—Superstars Tom Cruise and Jennifer Lopez were united in shame Monday when they topped the list of Worst Actor nominees in Hollywood's annual spoof of the Oscars, the Razzie Awards. *AFP*

PARIS Hilton and Stavros Niarchos at the Sundance Film Festival.

H'wood celebrity sex tapes benefit careers

COLIN Farrell in Tokyo last year.

NEW YORK—IN A HOLLYWOOD museum specializing in erotica is a grainy tape of a woman having sex with a man on a couch. It's widely believed, though denied by her estate, that the woman is Marilyn Monroe, circa 1948.

Fast-forward some 60 years. The latest celebrity sex tape contains 14 minutes of hard-core action between actor Colin Farrell and a former Playboy Playmate, punctuated by dialogue like: "Where's the zoom on this?"

But Farrell's career is not likely to be harmed. In fact, it could even get bigger.

"The public is very forgiving [of show biz celebrities]," says Kate White, editor in chief of Cosmopolitan. "It's not like, 'Oh no, Colin, not you!' It makes him more interesting."

In the old days, Hollywood studios worked hard to suppress behavior they didn't like. Contract stars signed morals clauses, says Jonathan Kuntz, a film professor at the University of California, Los Angeles who specializes in Hollywood history.

The celebrity sex tape really emerged decades after Monroe, along with accessible home video equipment. In the late 1980s, Rob Lowe became infamous for a videotaped encounter with two women, one a minor. But the actor climbed back; he later got the plum role of presidential aide Sam Seaborn in "The West Wing."

A decade later, "Baywatch" star Pamela Anderson and her rocker husband Tommy Lee were subjects of a sex tape stolen from their home and distributed on the Internet. Anderson went on to launch her own TV series, "V.I.P.," which ran for four years. She now stars in the sitcom "Stacked."

All this is but a prelude, of course, to Paris Hilton.

In late 2003, Hilton was a me hotel heiress and socialite fa vored by the paparazzi for he blonde looks, skimpy outfits an nightclub escapades. Her se tape, made with then-boyfrien Rick Salomon in eerie night-v sion green, surfaced just befo the start of her reality TV serie "The Simple Life."

ELSE WHERE

It helped propel her to supe stardom: A fragrance. nightclub chain. A C Memoirs. In Yahoo's com pilation of the top w searches of 2005, "Pa Hilton" was the sevent most-searched term, in all cat gories, globally.

It would appear that Colin F rell has little to worry about, d spite his video romp with ex-gi friend Nicole Narain, who is n trying to sell it.

But he'd better look good the tape. One thing that w hurt a celebrity's career is loo ing bad, showing paunch bags around the eyes or grea hair.

"Now that," says Robe Thompson, professor of popu culture at Syracuse Univers "would be a scandal." AP

CHOOSE YOUR Valentine SHOW

Rock Your Hearts Away

Star: Mike Hanopol
Date: Feb. 14
Place: BG's on Pasay Road, Makati

MIKE Hanopol

When you don't have a show, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

I don't usually celebrate it. But now that we're busy traveling, my wife and I just spend it praying together.

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you've ever experienced?

Rocker *tayo eh*! I have never experienced a romantic Valentine's day.

What's an ideal Valentine date for you?

It depends on the mood of the moment.

Who is your fantasy Valentine date?

Dati meron, pero ngayon baka magalit sa akin si Lord!

What is the most romantic love song for you?

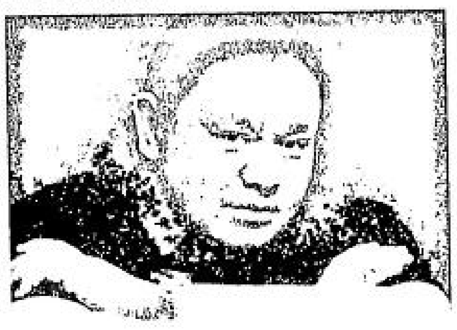
"Sa Ating Pag-uwi" which is part of my new album, "Lagablab."

Other than you and your show's co-stars, who would you like to watch in a show this Valentine's Day?

Paul Wilber, a Jewish artist that is into messianic praise and worship songs.

Why should we watch your Valentine show instead of the others? What can your audience expect?

The audience will experience the old and new Mike Hanopol—rock on!



ARTHUR Manuntag

In Fairness, My Valentine Show

Star: Faith Cuneta
Guests: Rufa Mae Quinto, Teri Onor, The Manoeuvres, Randy Santiago
Venue: Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, Pasay City

When you don't have a show, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

For the past seven years, I've been singing in hotel lounges so I don't have time to spend Valentine's Day.

FAITH Cuneta

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you've experienced?

Romantic? None *pa talaga*. My ex-boyfriend worked in a call center, he was always in the graveyard shift.

What's your dream Valentine's date?

Boracay! Fruit shakes at sunset, a steak dinner, gimmick all night at The Cocomanggas, then waking up with the one you love in the morning.

Do you have a fantasy date?

Robin Padilla, my super crush.

What, for you, is the most romantic love song?

"You" by Basil Valdez. "It's your smile, your face, your lips that I miss..."

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch?

Sharon Cuneta. She's always been my idol. Her musical director, Louie Ocampo, is also the best.

Why should we watch your show? What can the audience expect?

It has to be the most affordable major Valentine show. Also, I have mega musical director, Mel Villena. Ronnie Henares is my director and Freddie Santos conceptualized the show and wrote the script. My guests are the best. It'll be a fun night. Call 891-9999. *Marinel R. Cruz*

Jazz You, Jazz Me

Stars: Richard Merk, Isabella
Date: Feb. 14
Place: Teatrino in Promenade, Greenhills

When you don't have a show, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

Richard: I guess I really should make sure I have one. Or I can celebrate with my family.

Isabella: I watch a Kuh Ledesma concert. But I agree with Richard Merck... it would be nice to always have a Valentine concert and share my talent with people in love.

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you've ever experienced?

Richard: My first date with my wife, Roni.

Isabella: I've never been in a real relationship but I am romantic so I always enjoy Valentine's.

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Richard: At Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt, Level 3 or in Tagaytay City.

Isabella: Watching an established jazz singer and a new singer hit it off in a fun concert in a beautiful theater like Teatrino, with great Italian food.

Who is your fantasy Valentine date?

Richard: Dora the Explorer.

Isabella: Superman!

What, for you, is the most romantic love song?

Richard: "Stella by Starlight."

Isabella: "The Way You Look Tonight."

Other than you and your co-star, who would you like to watch in a show this Valentine's Day?

Richard: The show at Merk's Bar Bistro or Kuh Ledesma and Pops Fernandez.

Isabella: Other than my mom's show ... Barbra Streisand—that would be great!"

Why should we watch your show instead of the others? What can your audience expect?

Richard: Expect the best. Isabella is fantastic! Teatrino's ambience is very romantic and intimate.

Isabella: If you've ever wanted to jump up and dance but were afraid, if you've ever wanted to sing along but were shy, this show will make you come alive! We will also sing songs that will make you want to hold the one you love, hug them and say, "I love you."

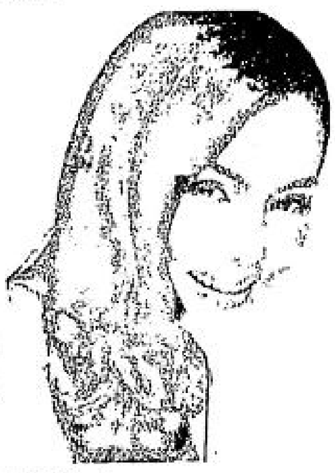
RICHARD Merk and Isabella

Music of the Heart, A Celebration of Love

Star: Arthur Manuntag
Date: Feb. 14
Place: Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City

When you don't have a show, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

I stay home with my wife and two kids, cook something special and watch our favorite video.



KUH Ledesma

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you've ever experienced?

My very first Valentine's Day with my wife in Beijing—it was enchanting and passionate.

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Go on a picnic out of town with your favorite wine, grapes and cheese, find a deserted spot right in front of the sea or a lake, Later, have a romantic dinner in one of the town's top hotels.

Who is your fantasy date?

Too many to mention! Beyonce Knowles is one of them. I also got ... no, my li'l ol' lady don't wanna hear this.

What, for you, is the most romantic love song?

"An Affair to Remember," one of the songs in my album.

Other than you, who would you like to watch in a show this Valentine's Day?

My favorite singer but he's already gone—Luther Vandross. And of course Barbra Streisand, Tony Bennett or Diana Krall.

Why should we watch your Valentine's show instead of the others? What can your audience expect?

Love songs from the past, soothing, meaningful and nostalgic words, enchanting melodies lovers ought to hear!

Let's Talk About Love

Star: Kuh Ledesma and Pops Fernandez
Date: Feb. 13 & 14
Place: Captain's Bar, Mandarin Hotel

When you don't have a show, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

I always have a Valentine concert. [But] I could just go out on a romantic dinner

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you've ever experienced?

When Republic of Malate was being constructed, we had a formal dinner with close friends in the middle of the construction site. We had flowers and wine and cheese and excellent French cuisine prepared by my daughter, Isabella and I. We had a fabulous time—great food, great friends, mushy romantic music in the least expected setting.

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Hacienda Isabella anytime.

Who is your fantasy date?

Sorry, I don't fantasize anymore.

What, for you, is the most romantic song?

"Till I Met You."

Other than you or Pops, who would you like to watch in a show this Valentine's Day?

My daughter Isabella at Teatrino, Greenhills. She is doing a show with Richard Merck

Why should we watch your show and not the others? What can your audience expect?

Our show is going to be a lot of fun. Pops and I will talk about aspects of love that are not usually talked about. Maybe you will learn a thing or two. Better yet, maybe Pops will reveal her secrets. Hahaha.

SHOW TIME

Tomorrow

- OJ Mariano and
- Czarina Rosales at Suburbia
- 9th Avenue at Virgin Café

February 7

- DK Tijam at Suburbia
- Freeway at Virgin Café

February 8

- Nyoy Volante at Club Mwah! with Seven Years After Band
- MYMP at Suburbia
- Dimsum at Virgin Café

February 9

- Nyoy Volante and Freeverse at Suburbia
- MYMP at Suburbia

February 10

- "Forever After," a fantaconsierto at the Araneta Coliseum with Regine Velasquez, Ogie Alcasid, Rico J. Puno and AiAi delas Alas. Call 926-7868.
- Livewire and Zyncxation at Suburbia
- NTwine and Freeverse at Virgin Café

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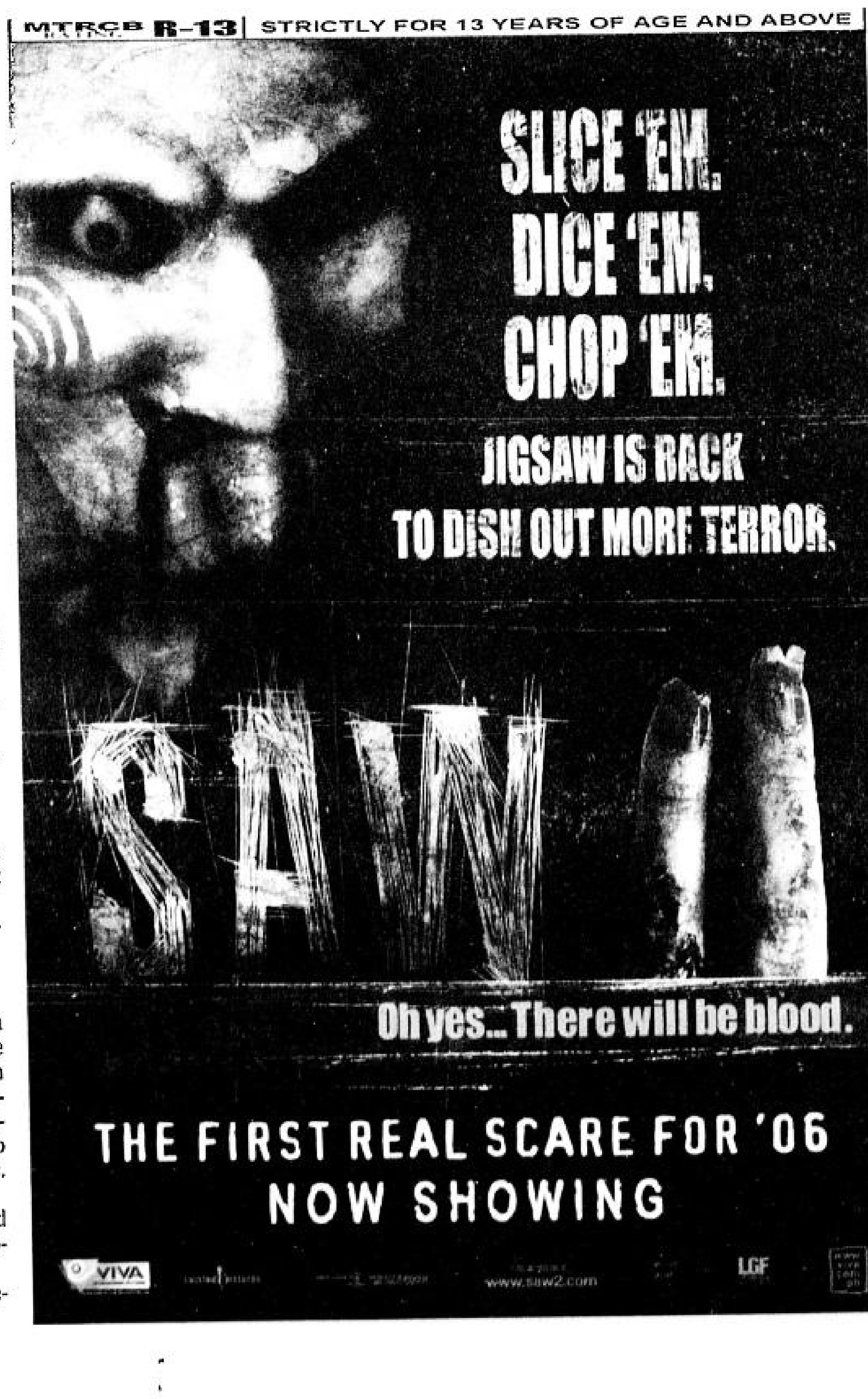

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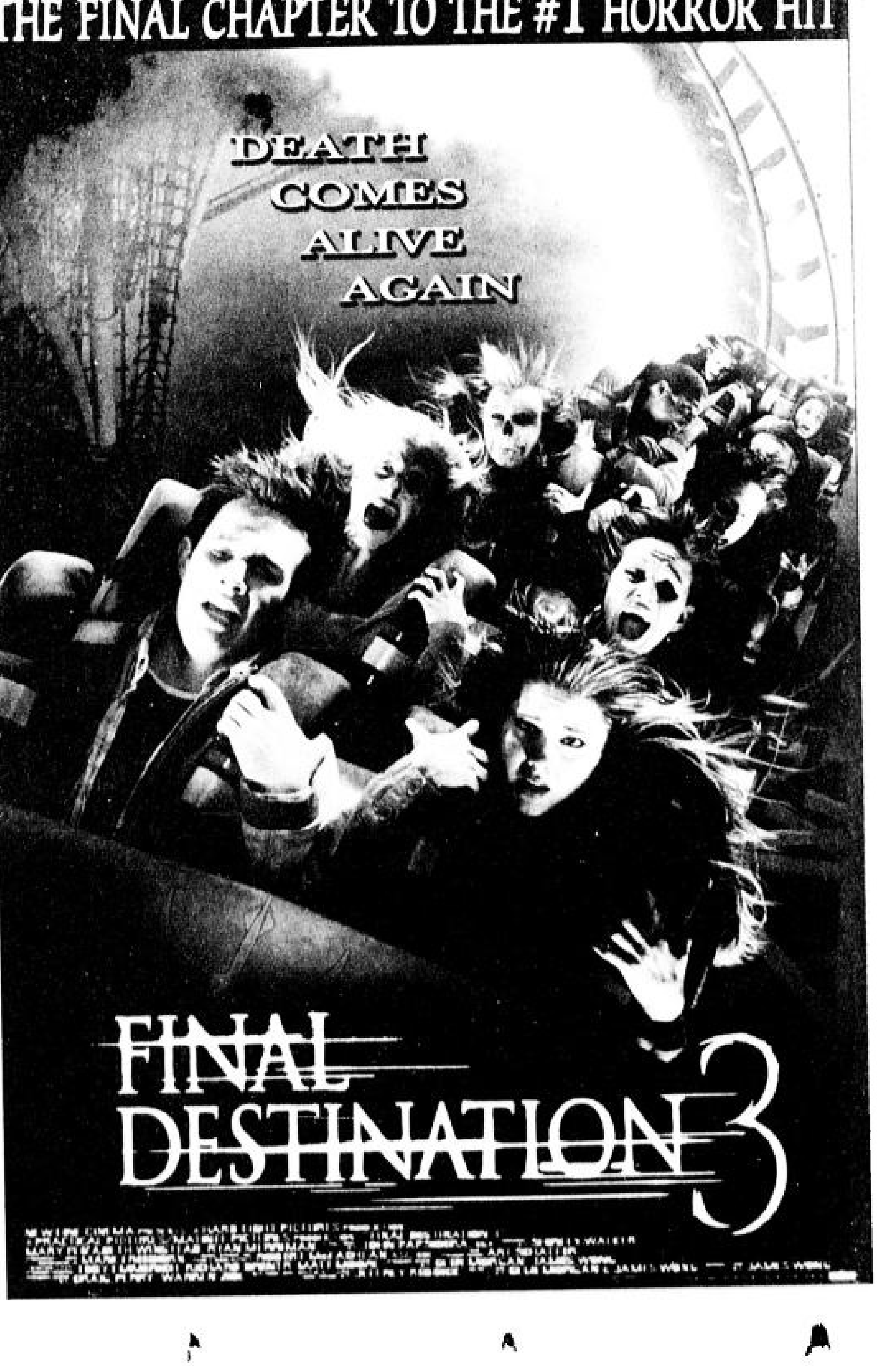

A whole 'New World' for Q'Orianka Kilcher

Q'ORIANKA with co-star Christian Bale

...and an Oscar nomination for a Fil-Am producer

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—IT MUST HAVE BEEN quite a morning for **Pia Clemente** last Tuesday when she and her collaborator, **Rob Pearlstein,** were nominated in Oscar's Best Live Action Short Film category for "Our Time Is Up."

We're still trying to confirm this but Pia is possibly the first Filipino-American to receive an Oscar nomination. She is the co-producer of "Our Time Is Up" with Rob listed as writer and director. The short's synopsis goes: "Therapist Dr. Leonard Stern has always treated his patients gently and sympathetically—until he discovers he has six weeks to live. With time running out and nothing to lose, he adopts a fresh method of treatment: brutal honesty."

Two critics who have seen the film have been quoted as writing the following comments. **Eric Campos** of Film Threat: "Four Stars. Very funny ... it's a blast ... a top-notch short." **S. Mark Rhodes,** of Films in Review: "'Our Time Is Up' was the most enjoyable short of the [Hamptons] festival, a nice 14-minute burst of perfect characterization, timing and humanity about a psychologist who realizes late (but not too late) what life is all about."

Also in the cast of the short is **Jorge Garcia,** who stars in the award-winning hit TV series, "Lost." Our congratulations to Pia and Rob! And thanks to our friend **Winston Emano** for confirming that Pia is indeed a Fil-Am. Her name caught our attention as we went over the nominees' list that was handed to us during the dawn nominations announcement at the Academy's headquarters in Beverly Hills.

According to Winston, Pia was raised in New Jersey and received a tennis scholarship to the Drexel University in Philadelphia. She transferred to Barnard College in New York where she produced a film that won a Student Oscar Award. Pia then moved to LA to attend the American Film Institute. Winston met Pia when she worked as an associate producer of the hit Fil-Am movie, "The Debut."

Gay Oscars?

The recent Oscar nominations announcement was attended by international media, including the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Oscar-winning actress **Mira Sorvino** and Academy President **Sid Ganis** bared the list.

A reporter asked Ganis if 2006 was the year of the Gay Oscars. Ganis replied, laughing, "Sure, it's the year of gay cowboys if you want to call it that. Aren't we fortunate that this movie was made ... in the beginning, people [said] 'No, no, no, you can't do that film.' I think it's brilliant."

Asked about the majority of the Best Picture contenders being small, independently financed films, Ganis replied, "I don't see it as a year of the indie films. It's a year of some really good movies, period. The big studios are now producing smaller movies. Of course, we thank the indie producers for spurring this trend."

Remember her name

Q'Orianka Kilcher made it to our list of

A WHOLE/ A2-3

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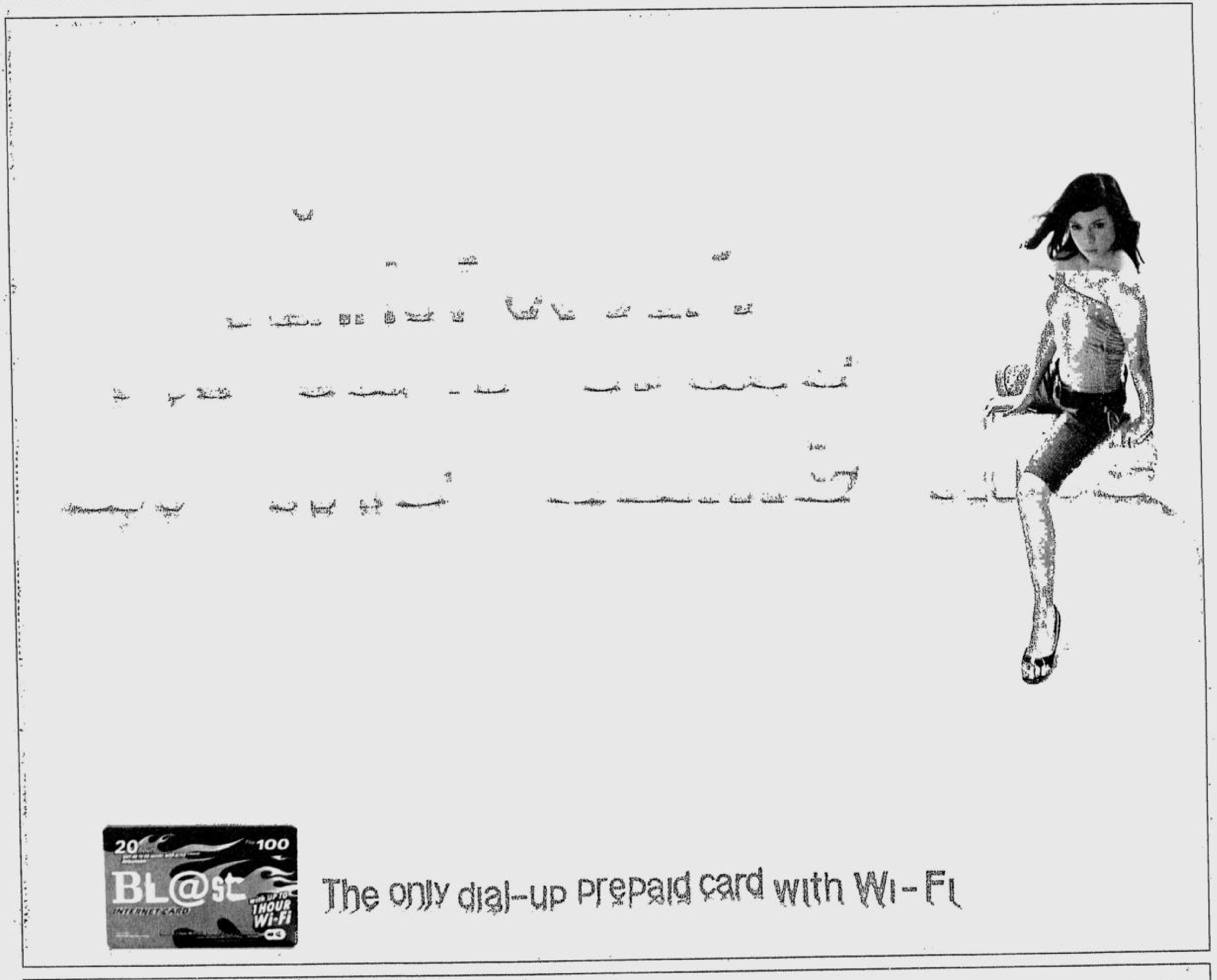

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday BIZ

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PANGILINAN (left) with PBSP officials Marixi R. Prieto of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and David Balangue, SGV&Co.

PBSP trustee Hans Sy of the SM group (right) with Nestlé chair Nandu Nandkishore

Fighting the good fight vs poverty

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao
Photos by Rudy Esperas

ON DEC. 16, 1970, 50 OF the country's top businessmen put their energies together to fight a common enemy: Poverty. The weapon? Philippine Business for Social Progress.

It's been 35 years since that inaugural meeting at the Hotel Inter-Continental, yet the war against poverty continues, said PBSP and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan during the 35th anniversary celebration last week.

FORMER BIR commissioner Bienvenido Tan

Many battles, however, have been won.

For instance, corporations have gone beyond simple check writing and charity work, and now combine corporate social responsibility with their corporate mission and practices, with PBSP as the prime example.

From 1971 to 2005, PBSP provided P5.8 billion in total program assistance, going to 5,649 projects and reaching 3.27 million beneficiaries.

This represents perhaps the single biggest block of private sector funds managed and disbursed by one institution to the poor and marginalized sectors of the economy, making PBSP a model for business sector participation in development efforts in the region.

RAMON del Rosario Jr. of the Phinma group

To build on these successes, Pangilinan said that this year, PBSP would intensify its efforts at poverty reduction in four areas: Area resource management, basic education, information technology, water and health and micro and small enterprise development.

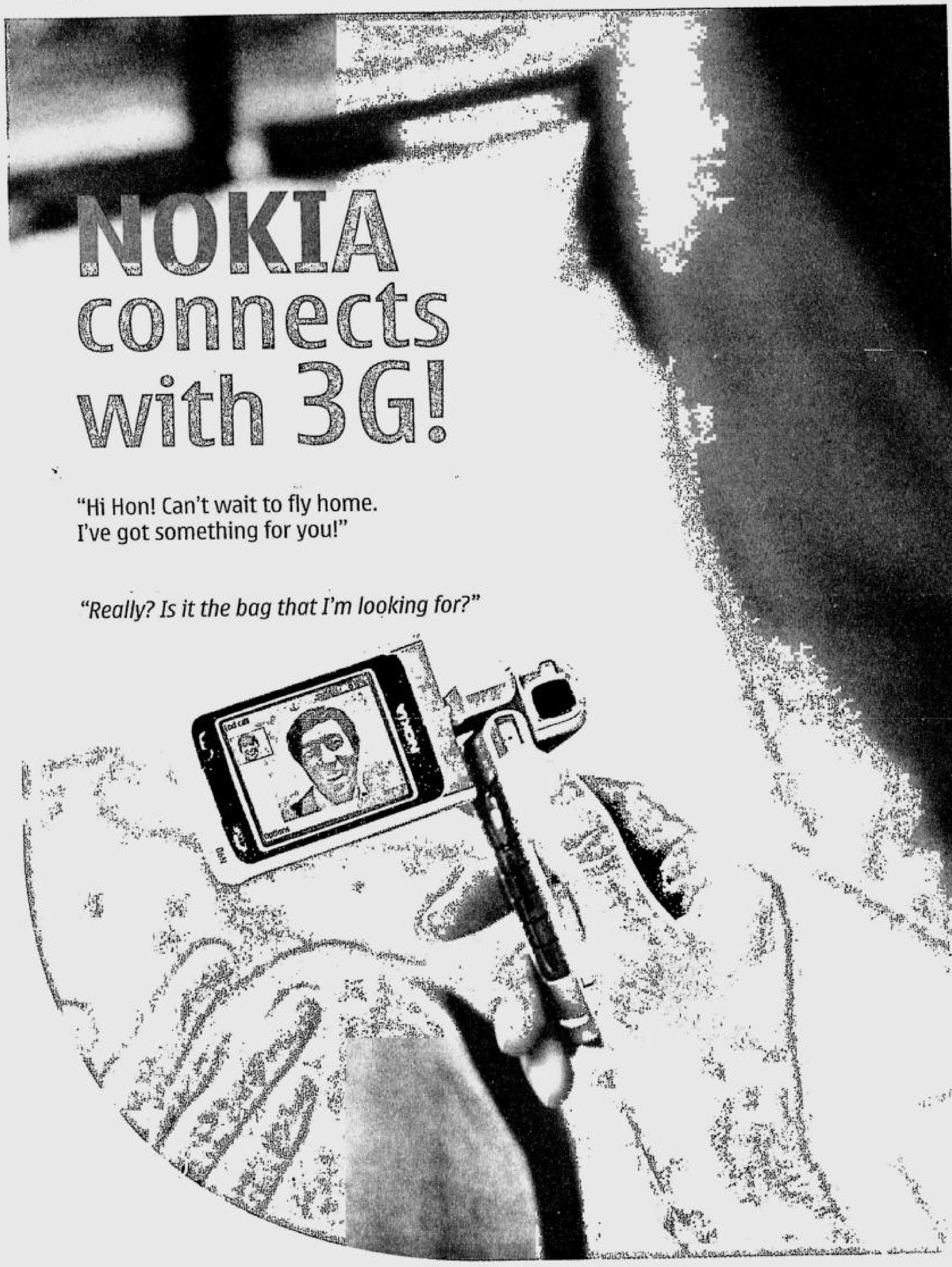
He added that PBSP would continue reaching out to the Armed Forces of the Philippines by providing scholarship and education assistance, a mobile hospital closer to battle areas, barracks for the Presidential Security Group, housing under the Gawad Kalinga program and financial and strategic planning to the Philippine Military Academy.

Fulfilling these ambitious goals would require money, and Pangilinan

FIGHTING/ B2

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno

PEDRO Roxas of Central Azucarera de Don Pedro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More discoveries in fascinating Kaoshiung

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

BUSINESS TRAVEL

(LEFT) The spectacular Sun Moon Lake; (above) Taroko Gorge at Taroko National Park, nature at its finest

AFTER ENJOYING THE BREATH-TAKING sight of Sun Moon Lake (and awed by the very hip Lalu Hotel), we headed for our hour-long trip to Jun-Yue Resort Cottage, a cool (pardon the pun) mountain resort where we stayed for the night. Here, one is reminded of a Swiss village.

The resort's tastefully decorated guest rooms are spacious with enough room for two king size beds. The bathroom with its ultra-modern fixtures is huge. The next morning, we enjoyed breakfast and a view of the snow-capped Chilai Mountain from the picture window of the resort's dining room. In fact, the view from every corner of the resort was just breath-taking.

After a failed attempt to pose for photos in freezing weather in Hehuan Mountain (3,416 meters above sea level!), off we were to the Regent Formosa Hotel for a sumptuous 8-course lauriat. Our next stop: Taroko National Park, Taiwan's most famous national park.

One of Taroko's attractions is the Taroko Gorge. We explored a portion of this magnificent 19-kilometer canyon and were welcomed by the chirping of birds, a cool breeze and the soothing sound of the roaring rapids surrounded by sheer cliffs. Indeed, "nature at its finest."

According to Barel, our tour guide, the road of the highway running through the Gorge was carved out of the cliffs. The road project cost an estimated $11 Million and 450 lives.

The Eternal Spring Shrine, which was built in memory of those who died during the construction, is located just a short distance above the entrance of the Gorge.

On our way to Hualien, our last stop, we passed through a string of roadside shops with young, bikini-clad women (in 20-degree C winter weather!) selling betel nuts behind glass windows.

With a population of 110,000, Hualien is the largest city on Taiwan's East Coast. Known as the "City of Marble," Hualien is the province's leading producer of marble and jade. Marble is a popular material for sidewalks, arcades and buildings. One of the highlights of our Hualien visit was a tour of one of the city's marble factories. These factories sell jewelry, marble slabs and décor to tourists.

China Airlines has daily flights to Taipei and Kaoshiung (www.china-airlines.com).

In the next Business Travel issue: Secret addresses and the New Healthy Hotels Guide

For more info, please e-mail sandragarcia@gmail.com or sdg1402@yahoo.com

Fighting...

From page B1

said PBSP was committed to spend P898.2 million this year, a record high for a single year.

PBSP must do no less as, according to Pangilinan, poverty remained the country's most daunting and toughest challenge.

"Just like our founders 35 years ago, 'we must continue to be visionaries," Pangilinan said. "And find new ways to harness the resources of the business sector so that corporate activism can indeed become a reality in our country and a model for the world to see."

ISLA Lipana and Co. senior partner Jerry Isla

PBSP trustee Edgar Chua, chief executive of the Shell group in the Philippines.

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Nestlé launches NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick

Nestlé Philippines Inc introduces NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick, a limited edition coffee made from coffee cherries handpicked at the beginning of the harvest season.

The new product promises a truly satisfying coffee drinking experience to its consumers, brought about by a unique roasting process that brings out the fresh, flavourful taste and rich aroma of these first pick coffee cherries.

NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick is a celebration of Filipino coffee quality and expertise. It bears the Kape Isla seal, a guarantee that the product uses 100% Philippine coffee. Apart from that, each First Pick coffee cherry is carefully selected and handpicked by skilled Filipino farmers, to ensure that only the highest coffee-making standards are met.

Nestlé has long been sourcing its coffee from about 100,000 Filipino farmers. It also deals with about 300,000 other people in the country who are in one way or another involved in the planting, harvesting, or processing and trading of coffee.

Likewise, the Nestlé coffee farm in Davao provides 80% of all robusta coffee planting materials in the Philippines. It is this access to coffee farms and field experts that helped Nestlé discover that the first ripe and red coffee cherries picked during the start of the harvest season, when carefully selected and roasted brings about a uniquely fresh and flavourful cup.

NESCAFÉ Classic First Pick limited edition is now available in a 50g box or a 200g jar.

ADVT

CEOs expect more than just 'clipping service' from PR

COMPANIES ARE SEEN TO DEmand more from PR these days in terms of corporate branding, and even on return on investments (particularly when PR crosses the fine line between corporate communications and investor relations).

"Before, public relations was mostly activities-based. Now the trend is towards a total management system to achieve objectives stretched across a series of timelines," says PRSP Anvil Awards Committee chair Joel Lacsamana, who is also with Manila Water.

Indeed, a growing number of companies in Asia, including the Philippines, are exploring new frontiers involving innovative PR integrated into hard-nosed business targeting.

Modern-day CEOs, in particular, want to see tangible measurements to accompany each branding campaign.

And company executives are no longer content that their corporate win-win stories are coming out of the media as documented in the age-old 'clippings' service.

"Today, in boardrooms all over the country, business executives want to plan, implement, measure and finetune PR campaigns based on their actual 'hit rates' (....did it reach the target market?), and overall attainment of corporate objectives," Lacsamana says.

"There are now scientific, time-bound ways to measure results of a PR campaign in the same way one measures, say, operational or financial efficiency," Lacsamana pointed out. "This is the challenge for today's PR professional if he/she want a place at the table in the corporate boardroom. It's a major gap in the industry, and hopefully the rigorous standards of excellence in the Anvil will help plug those gaps."

The 41st Grand Anvil Awards Night, the 'Oscar' of the Public Relations industry, is set for Feb. 17 at the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Intercontinental Hotel in Makati City.

Over a hundred entries from the country's leading corporations, independent media, advertising and public relations outfits, NGOs, as well as government agencies hope to bag the highly coveted awards sponsored annually by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP).

This year's Anvil is broadly divided into two categories: PR programs and PR tools that had been implemented between October 2004 and October 2005.

These PR programs and tools are further divided into several sub-categories, capped by the Grand and Bronze Anvil Awards.

A multi-sectoral board of jurors are tasked each year to pick the outstanding PR programs and tools that clearly capture the public interest, or demonstrate lasting impact and value to its targeted stakeholders.

The jurors were composed of Dean Amado Valdez, chair; Mal-ou Mangahas, De La Salle University professor Dr. Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.; Philippine Design Center chief Minerva P. Franco, senior executive of the Robinson Group, Patricia Go-Nisce; PR consultants Melvin Martin, consultant Danilo A. Gozo, Max Edralin, Leonides C. Valencia, Ed Alcaraz and General Honesto M. Isleta, (Ret.), as members.

Developer marks two million safe man-hours

THE SUCCESS OF AN AYALA Land Premier residential project always includes timely delivery without compromising construction safety.

Thus, the achievement of two million safe man-hours with construction on schedule for The Residences at Greenbelt's Laguna Tower was truly an achievement, marked with a special ceremony held at the project site in Makati.

This milestone served as a valued testament to Ayala Land's commitment to safety for all its projects.

Says Ruel Bautista, vice-president for Ayala Land's Residential Buildings Group, "We are very happy with this accomplishment. As you know, Ayala Land is not just working towards achieving quality or meeting deadlines but more importantly, making every project a safe place for all."

Albert C. Saringo, project director of contractor EEI Corp., similarly expressed pride in having achieved the safety mark.

"This is important to all of us who are involved in the project, especially the safety engineers. It was not an easy task but we are pleased that we were able to deliver," he concurred.

Outgoing EEI president Samson C. Lazaro further stressed that safety should not only be a concern of safety engineers, but of the developer as well, such as Ayala Land Premier. "We all work to live so it is important to be healthy and safe in our place of work. It is not only a responsibility for the safety engineers, but for all of those involved. Safety is an important objective for Ayala Land and EEI so as we work together, we will be able to achieve more than what we have accomplished this year."

The safety program for The Residences at Greenbelt was a combined effort of Ayala Land Premier along with its Technical Project team comprised of Design Coordinates (DCI), Jose Aliling and Associates and EEI Corp.

The Residences at Greenbelt is the only residential condominium in Greenbelt. For inquiries call 728-7000

Firm uses MLM to offer business packages

A NEW YET INNOVATIVE INNOvative marketing company is slowly building up a strong following in Metro Manila by offering no-nonsense micro business packages such as *carinderias* and *sari-sari stores*, among others, which provide real chances for successful entrepreneurship for anyone with a minimum capital.

Veridian Vacations and Ventures, which was formed late last year, is utilizing the tried and tested success formula of multi-level marketing to gain a quick foothold in the highly competitive market, although its officials said the range and nature of their product offerings are their main growth drivers.

"While we have adopted the binary multi-level marketing strategy for quicker penetration, the real reason behind our growth is the livelihood opportunity that we offer to the average Filipino. And during these difficult times, everyone is looking for such an opportunity," said Veridian President and Chief Operating Officer Ariel Arias.

Arias, who has worked with some of the country's biggest multinational companies, said Veridian aims to awaken the entrepreneurial spirit of the Filipino with products that are close to their hearts.

Veridian offers vacation packages, educational packages and solid investment opportunities to its members, also called business associates.

Easily standing out, however, are the packages that include owning and operating a carinderia, sari-sari store and various mobile food carts for popular delicacies such as squid balls, hotdogs, *lechon manok* and *mami/siomai*.

"We just don't provide them with the physical structures and equipment, which includes signages, stoves and refrigerators. More importantly, we provide our members training on how to run the business, with emphasis on record-keeping," Arias said.

He said that for an initial investment of about P10,000, would-be business associates can secure a reservation for the product package of his choice, plus automatic life insurance worth P400,000 from Philam Life, a business kit and gift certificates, among others.

Veridian, will hold its formal launch early this year. It holds office at the East Tower of the Philippine Stock Exchange Center in Ortigas. For inquiries, call 634-3607 and 634-3640.

Talk on setting up a realty brokerage office set

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT REAL estate as a profession and be properly guided in setting up a realty brokerage company, Urban Institute of Real Estate will conduct a seminar on "How To Start And Manage A Successful Realty Office" on Feb. 13, 1:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the Maximo Function Room, Second Floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Topics include how to secure properties for sell; needed documents such as authority to sell; requirements to be entitled to commission; how to safeguard your commission; how to start and close a transaction; sales organizational structures; sales personnel recruitment techniques; training programs; advancement and career path programs; commission structures, awards and other incentives; how to do real estate networking.

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AUCTION DATE : FEBRUARY 22, 2006 (WEDNESDAY) @ 10:30AM

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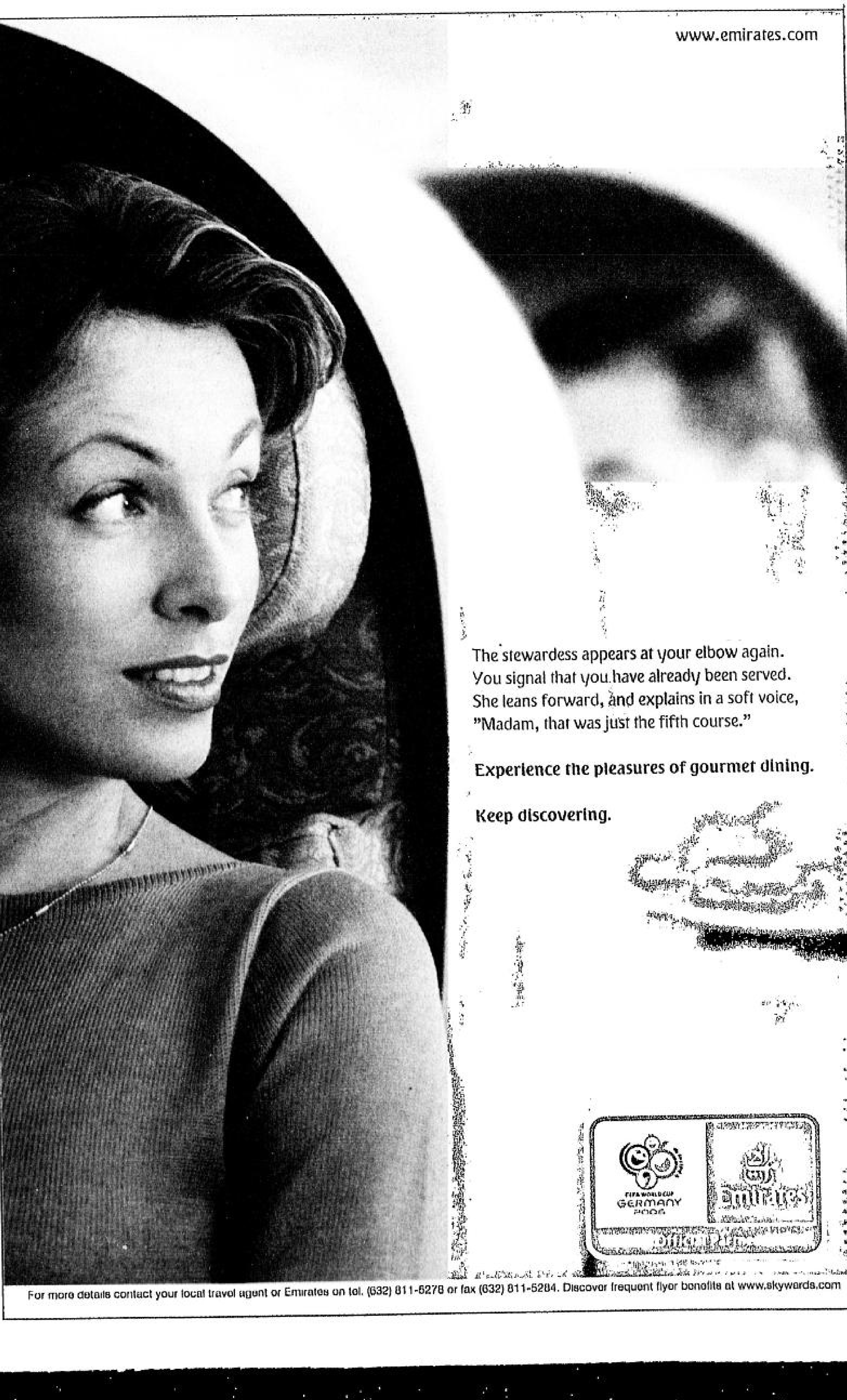

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RESIDENTIAL

	QUEZON CITY	MIN BID
1.	2 Sty Thse / Unit 10, Golden Shower Exec Hms, # 36 Jose Zabarte,Sr Ave, Kaligayahan, N'liches LA 42 / FA 65 (nr Sacred Heart Schl)	1,200,000
2.	H&L/# 269 M Aquino St Banlat Rd.T Sora LA 120 / FA 191 (near NPC / NIA Subdivision)	1,350,000
	LAGUNA – Sta. Rosa	**MIN BID**
3	Lot/Lot 18 Blk 3 Albright cor Baylor Sts, Golden Meadows Exec Vill Brgy Sinalhan / LA 140 (nr Morales & Pavilion Malls)	453,000
	LAGUNA – Calamba Brgy Lawa, Revelation St, St. Augustine Vill	**MIN BID**
4	Lot / Lot 14 Blk 1 / LA 106	276,000
5	Lot / Lot 15 Blk 1 / LA 106	276,000
	MUNTINLUPA – Alabang San Jose Vill. (infront of Alabang Town Cntr)	**MIN BID**
6	Lot / Lot 264 (Pcs 4946), St Joseph St / LA 526 * w/ Court Decision in favor of Unionbank	4,000,000
	ANGONO, Rzl. (via Antipolo)	**MIN BID**
7	Lot / L 6 B 2, Mills St, Sta Monica Classic Est,Ph 3,Mission Hills Brgy Colaique/LA 540 (nr Pines City)	1,700,000
	ANTIPOLO, RIZAL (Lots)	**MIN BID**
8	H&L, L-7 B-3, Valley Golf Dr Valley Golf Subd , Mayamot LA 1,961 / FA 107 (nr Ortigas Extn)	4,500,000
9.	L 20 B 17, Jerusalem St Ph 5 Brgy Uulan/LA 120 (via Tikling Junction & Melendres Subd)	299,000
10.	L 23 B 10, Cottonwood Hts Bayugo / LA 266 (nr Sumulong)	1,332,000
11.	L 21 B 2, Birchwood St, Cottonwood Hts, Bayugo / LA 355	1,778,000
12	Lot 47 Blk 18,Park Ridge Est Ph 3 (via Valley Golf) LA 811	1,852,000
13.	L 17 B 1, Beverly St. Sta Barbara 1.Mission Hills Colaique/LA 1,021 (nr Pines City)	3,692,000
	TAGAYTAY CITY between Sta. Rosa, Lag. Short-cut & Aguinaldo H way	**MIN BID**
14.	Lot/Lot 8, Tagaytay Calamba Rd Tolentino West (over looking Taal Lake) LA 2 156 *w/ Lis Pendens	20,000,000
	BULACAN - MALOLOS	**MIN BID**
15	H&L / Lot 2 & 3 Blk 17,Desta Ave. cor. 1st St, Desta Hms Brgy Atlag LA 515 / FA 293 (near Sto Cristo Diversion Rd)	2,428,000
	BULACAN – Plaridel Brgy. Lalangan - Plaridel Heights	**MIN BID**
16.	Cor Lot / L 2 B 47, LA 355	1,243,000
17.	Cor Lot / L 13 B 7, LA 404	1,414,000
18.	Cor. Lot / L 2 B 38, LA 411	1,439,000
19	Lot / Lot 25 Blk 8, LA 350	1,155,000
	VALENZUELA – Nr Malinta Exit	**MIN BID**
20.	Lot / Lot 551 A 2 A 3, Pineda Compd, Bonifacio St / LA 1,114	2,241,000
21.	3 Sty Bldg/ Lot 894 A 3, Mariano Laurel Drive Paso De Blas LA 463/FA 809 (nr Fortune Vill 4)	4,300,000
	MAKATI CITY Kingswood Twr - P. Tamo corner V. Cruz	**MIN BID**
22	Condo / Unit P2F, Tower B 28th & 29th flrs / FA 154	7,208,000
23.	Condo / Unit P3F,Tower B 26th & 27th flrs / FA - 154	7,208,000
	TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
24	2 Sty H&L / L 7 B 18, Family Park Homes, Brgy Cut-Cut II San Miguel / LA 62 / FA 40	276,000
25	Lot / Lot 3871 D, Sapang Maragul Tibag /LA 10,001-nr Arch	2,652,000
	NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City # 529 Pag Asa, Daan Sarili (near LTO)	**MIN BID**
26	Lot / Lot 3 A 5 / LA 1,847	401,000
27.	Lot / Lot 3 A 4 / LA 1,847	401,000
28	Lot / Lot 3 A 3 / LA 1,848	401,000
29.	Lot / Lot 3 A 2 / LA 1,048	401,000
30	Lot / Lot 3 A 1 / LA 1,839	401,000
	SAN MATEO,RIZAL-Bo.Patiis	**MIN BID**
31	*Lot / B 15, LA 40,171	2,040,000
32	*Lot / B 16, LA 40,171	2,040,000
33.	*Lot / B 17, LA 40,171	2,040,000
34.	*Lot / B 18, LA 40,171 * No Right Of Way	2,040,000
	CALOOCAN – Gracepark	**MIN BID**
35	Lot / L 25 & 26 B 31, 2nd St LA 388 (between 3rd & 4th Ave)	3,428,000
	CAVITE – Carmona (Lot)	**MIN BID**
36	L 28 B 4, Ph 1, St Andrew St Mla Southwoods,Cabilang Baybay LA 450 (nr Gate 1) * w/ Court Decision in favor of Unionbank	3,005,000
	CAVITE- Brgy. Palangue, Naic Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	**MIN BID**
37	Lot 6 Blk 19A / LA 1,249	1,249,000
38	Lot 5 Blk 19B / LA 3,052	3,052,000
39	Lot 8 Blk 19B / LA 1,890	1,890,000
40	Lot 9 Blk 19B / LA 2,247	2,585,000
41	Lot 1 Blk 24 / LA 1,624	1,868,000

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RESIDENTIAL

	LAS PIÑAS – Talon Dos	MIN BID
42	2 Sty Thse/ # 475 C,North 11 St, Angela Vill, Brgy Talon 2 LA 68/FA 101 (access via Happy Ville)	1,400,000
	MALABON – Hulong Duhat # 8 Don Basilio Bautista Blvd. (nr Mal. High Schl / Resi-Comml Lots)	**MIN BID**
43	Lot 1 B 2 E / LA 101	933,000
44.	Lot 1 B 2 D / LA 107	981,000
45	Lot 1 B 2 C / LA 114	1,037,000
46.	Lot 1 B 2 B / LA 194	1,754,000
47	Lot 1 B 2 A / LA 265	2,360,000
	MALABON- Brgy. Dampalit North Merville Park I Subd (*w/ occupants)	**MIN BID**
48	*L 1 B 14, J Cancio St/LA 186	110,000
49	*Lot 19 Blk 13A / LA 168	130,000
	CAVITE - Molino III, Bacoor Central Phase 2, Springville Subd. (Lots)	**MIN BID**
50	L 2 B 1, near ClubHse / LA 96	677,000
51.	L 2 B 2, near ClubHse /LA 108	762,000
52.	L 3 B 2, near ClubHse / LA 97	684,000
53	L 8 B 3, near ClubHse / LA 142	1,002,000
54.	L 24 B 7,MB Villar Ave /LA 120	974,000
	Madelaine Place, Springville Subd.	
55	Lot / Lot 8 Blk 1 / LA 117	582,000
56	Lot / Lot 6 Blk 4 / LA 120	596,000
57	Lot / Lot 10 Blk 3 / LA 123	611,000
58	Lot / Lot 18 Blk 6 / LA 132	656,000
59	Lot / Lot 19 Blk 7 / LA 132	656,000
	Washington Manor, Springville Subd.	
60	Lot / Lot 16 Blk 2 / LA 145	961,000
61.	Lot / Lot 2 Blk 2 / LA 154	1,020,000
62	Lot / Lot 18 Blk 2 / LA 162	1,073,000
	Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club - Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite FAIRWAY LOTS	
63.	Lot 46 Blk 50 / LA 630	2,394,000
64.	Lot 49 Blk 50 / LA 582	2,212,000
65.	Lot 50 Blk 50 / LA 627	2,383,000
	NON - FAIRWAY LOTS	
66	Lot 12 Blk 38 / LA 653	1,959,000
67	Lot 06 Blk 45 / LA 1,085	3,255,000
68.	Lot 07 Blk 45 / LA 752	2,256,000

COMMERCIAL / AGR.

(SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL)

	MAKATI – Bangkal / Pio Del Pilar near South Super Hi-way & EDSA	MIN BID
69	L-12 B-5 / Bldg A, 4 Levels Evangelista cor Hen Malvar Sts / LA 229 / FA 751	19,128,000
70.	L-11 B-5 / Bldg B, 4 Levels Evangelista cor Hen Malvar Sts / LA 233 / FA 751	19,277,000
71.	Lot/L 7 B 7,Evangelista St cor Arguelles St / LA 310	13,311,000
72	L 8 B 7,Evangelista St LA 311	11,700,000
	Millenium Plaza- Mkti. Ave cor Eduque St	
73	Condo Unit / 5/F, FA 261 (near former International Schl)	17,765,000
	QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
74.	Building / Lots 8 & 9 Blk S 27 Timog Ave LA 1,380 FA 1,500 (nr Unionbank Br & GMA-7) *on Lease	70,000,000
75	Whouse / 185 Roosevelt Ave S F Del Monte / LA 5,641 FA 3,454 (infront of Watch Twr)	140,000,000
76.	Warehouse / # 138 Gen Luis cor Pasacola Rd, Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches LA 49 504 / FA 23,384	300,000,000
	MANILA – Divisoria (KP Twr.)	**MIN BID**
77	Condo, 2/F, CM Recto Ave cor Juan Luna St / FA 658 *on Lease	28,792,000
	TARLAC CITY – Poblacion	**MIN BID**
78	Lot / Lot 4C, Rizal St / LA 759	8,094,000
79.	Lot / Lot 4A, Panganiban St LA 1,120 (infront of iceplant)	11,943,000
	VALENZUELA CITY	**MIN BID**
80	Whse / Lot 13 Templanza St D Pedro Vill, Marulas LA 2,540 FA 3,314 (near Savory Rest)	18,209,000
81	Indl Lot w/ 2 Whses (14&16) Barracks, Canteen,Guardhse Lot 1075 D 1 C, Plastic City 6 T. Santiago St, Canumay-West LA 9,923 / FA 7,096	39,703,000
82.	Indl Lot w/ Whse / # 47 Maysan Rd / LA 7,871 / FA 7,040 (near Maysan Elem School)	40,702,000
83	Industrial Lot / Lot 382 C Plastic City Housing,Canumay LA 25,798 / (Via T. Santiago St & Pinagbayanan St)	45,000,000
	SARIAYA - QUEZON PROV.	**MIN BID**
84	Agri Lot w/ resi H&L, Whse & Piggery/Lot 6181 A 5 A 1 A 1 D, E,F,G,I & Lot 6181 A 4,Psd 4A 001202, Bo Sampaloc/ LA 101,038, FA 9,277 (along the Hi-way) * with Lis Pendens	45,053,000
	CAVITE - Tanza, Bo. Tres Cruces nr Transville Subd, via Trece Martires	**MIN BID**
85	Agri Lot / Lot-2931 (Rs-1273) LA 40,127 * w/ Adverse Claim & No Right Of Way	5,117,000
	NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City # 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	**MIN BID**
86	Agri Lot / Lot 3B / LA 37,041	2,366,000
87	Comml Lot w/ Whse & Offc Lot 2H / LA 2,260 / FA 580	5,098,000

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP (492-06-001)

USAID/PHILIPPINES is soliciting proposals from firms who qualify through experience to provide up to two (2) years of **janitorial and housekeeping services** to USAID/ Philippines. The contractor shall provide tools of trade, equipment and furnish direct labor personnel in the performance of required services. Work will be monitored by USAID/ Philippines. The Contractor will be paid at fixed monthly rates as appropriate remuneration for services rendered by qualified personnel.

Contract Services are expected to begin on or about May 1, 2006 and end April 30, 2008 with options to renew the contract. A USAID direct contract will be awarded.

Detailed information about this solicitation is contained in Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 492-06-001 which may be obtained starting January 30, 2006 from the Office of Regional Procurement, USAID/Philippines, 8F PNB Financial Center, Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City.

(PDI – January 29, February 4 & 5, 2006

RJ Jacinto's unique Valentine concert

AFTER THE CHRISTmas and New Year season, Filipinos look forward to another annual celebration Valentine's Day. Come February, Manila will once again be the center of Valentine concerts, mostly featuring love songs and ballads. Lightning Rod Corporation (LRC) breaks this tradition when it sponsors a unique Valentine dance concert on February 13 at the Camp Aguinaldo Theater entitled "Happy Hearts Riot with RJ Jacinto", featuring the country's icon of rock and roll Ramon "RJ" Jacinto, with the Men in Gold band as front act. Tickets at P1,000 and P700 are available through Ticket W World at 891-9999. "Happy Hearts Riot with RJ Jacinto" is presented by San Miguel Corporation and Bank of the Philippine Islands media sponsors are Philippine Daily Inquirer, RJ TV and Radio, and the Philippine Broadcasting Service. Part of the proceeds of the show will go to Bukas Palad Foundation, a non-government organization that serves hundreds of disadvantaged families through its social centers.

URGENTLY NEED

(2) Accounting & Auditing staff
Qualification
- College Graduate (BS Accountancy)
- 25-35 years old
- With 3 years experience

(2) Dining Supervisors
Qualification:
- College Graduate (HRM or BS Management)
- 25-35 years old
- Good communication skill
- With 3 years experience

(4) Service Crew
Qualification:
- Male & Female
- 23-30 years old
- With 2 years experience

(1) Operations Manager
Qualification:
- Graduate in BS Management
- Male or Female
- With 3 years experience

(1) X-ray Technician
Qualification:
- Female, 25-30 years
- Licensed and with experience

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1046 UN Ave. cor. A. Mabini, Ermita, Manila
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Location : Within Brgy. Bulwang, Numancia, Aklan
Description : Vacant Lot
Area : 18,245 sqms.
Price : P3,300,000.00

For inquiries, please call:
UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK
Asset Management and Disposition Division
Hotline No. 8119797

BANK ACQUIRED ASSET FOR SALE

Location : Along Carlos Hidalgo Drive, Marapara Heights Subd. Brgy. Bata, Bacolod City
Description : Vacant Lot
Area : 1,000 sqms.
Price : P1,200,000.00

For inquiries, please call:
UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK
Asset Management and Disposition Division
Hotline No. 8119797

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Location: B17 L19 Molino Parkhomes, Bacoor, Cavite
Description: Raw House
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(Novaliches) 418-8080
(Angeles City) 045-626-1487
(Davao City) 082-227-6799
(Bulacan) 044-673-3879
(Cainta) 647-5440

Notice is hereby given that the following Official Receipts with series Numbers 4102 to 4111, 4113 to 4122, 4125 to 4129, 4131 to 4133, 4139 to 4140, 4143 and 4149 belonging to Bayer Crop Science, Inc. will no longer be honored by the company in any transaction.

(PDI–Feb. 3, 4 & 5, 2006)

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Experienced Legal Secretary

- computer literate & a resident of Manila
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- please call 525-4457 / 525-4856 for schedule of examination interview of qualified applicants on Saturday, February 11, 2006
- all applications will be treated with utmost confidentiality

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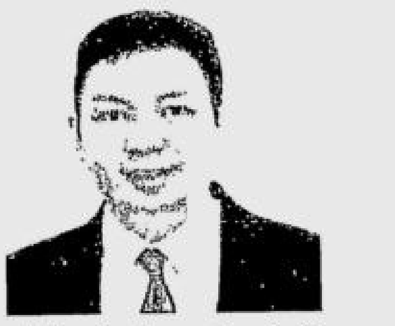
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



The public is hereby informed that **JOSE LENI Z. SOLIDUM**, whose photo appears above, has been separated from **SMART Communications, Inc**. effective November 11, 2005.

Accordingly, he has no authority to transact or conduct business on behalf of SMART.

(PDI – February 5, 2006)

PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY
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TELEPHONE NUMBERS: (02) 817-47-11 to 13; (02) 813-1441 to 45
FAX (632) 815-2662
WEBSITE: www.pea.gov.ph EMAIL: info@pea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

1. The **PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY** (formerly Public Estates Authority) is inviting all interested parties to prequalify and bid for the lease of twelve (12) pre-selected sites for outdoor billboard advertising along the landstrip of Coastal Road from Barangay Tambo, Parañaque to Barangay Ilaya, Las Piñas City.
2. Qualified Bidders
   a. Any Filipino citizen, of legal age, and
   b. Any partnership, association or corporation, public or private of which at least 70% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is organized and constituted under the laws of the Philippines.
3. Interested qualified parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) in cash or Manager's/ Cashier's check starting February 08, 2006 until February 24, 2006 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Marketing Department, 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
4. The first pre-bid conference is scheduled on February 15, 2006 at 2:00 PM at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
5. Required pre-qualification documents and duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms of Reference shall be submitted to the PRA Real Estates Bids and Awards Committee (PREBAC) on March 01, 2006 on or before 1:00 PM. Public opening of bids shall follow at 1:30 PM of the same day.
6. For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address at telephone numbers 817-4711 to 13 (trunk line) and 813-7104 (direct line).

(Sgd.) **SILVESTRE H. BELLO III**
General Manager/CEO

(PDI – Feb. 4, 5 & 6, 2006)

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USAID

2006 SEARCH FOR NOMINEES TO THE CONGRESSIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUNG MUSLIM LEADERS

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Congressional Internship Program for Young Muslim Leaders (CIPMYL) provides a four-month program in the Philippine House of Representatives and an introductory Governance course at the campus of the Mindanao State University in Marawi City. The program offers qualified young professionals from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and other conflict-affected areas in Mindanao opportunities to acquire hands-on experience in legislation and policy formulation, and pays all transportation and living allowances.

CIPMYL is a partnership among the Philippine House of Representatives, the Mindanao State University (MSU), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It is managed by USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must meet the following requirements:
1. Be not more that 30 years of age
2. Possess a BS or BA degree from a university in the ARMM or a conflict-affected area in Mindanao
3. Reside in the ARMM or in a conflict-affected area in Mindanao
4. Be able to articulate effectively and to represent the concerns and aspirations of people living in the ARMM and neighboring conflict-affected areas

Application Materials:
1. Completed internship application form
2. Certified true copy of official transcript of records from college/university attended
3. NBI and Police Clearance
4. At least two letters of recommendation from current or former university faculty and/or individuals who have supervised the applicant in a work setting. (A third recommendation letter will be required if the applicant's grade point average is below 2.5 or equivalent). At least one recommendation should come from a faculty member.
5. Two essays on "Goals" and "Policy Issues"

First Essay (400-500 words):

"Why I want to be an intern and what I want to do for my community?" (This will include a description of the applicant's academic, professional, and personal goals,and how the internship program fits into and advances these goals.)

Second Essay: (Approximately 1,000 words):

Discuss a key policy issue of interest to you and your personal reflections on this issue. This essay should also include the applicant's general recommendations or strategies on how to address the issues.

Submit the above materials to:

DR. MACABANGKIT P. ATI
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Mindanao State University, Marawi City
Cell Phone: 0927 4166548
Email: mpati@msumain.edu.ph

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15, 2006

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

Invitation for Submission of Expressions of Interest/Statement of Qualifications

The Louis Berger Group, Inc., a U.S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program is inviting qualified local engineering and related service firms to submit their expressions of interest/qualifications statement for possible contract award for the supply, delivery, and installation of chlorination equipment for up to twenty one communal water supply systems in Central Mindanao, the Lanao provinces, and Western Mindanao including the island provinces of Basilan and Sulu.

The work which will be contracted out in packages corresponding to geographical locations includes the provision of Chlorinator assemblies adapted to local conditions which require minimal skill to operate and maintain. The system will include: a drip type chlorinator (manual assembly) to be mounted above the reservoir including 2 units of 55 gallon plastic drums and associated plumbing; connection of a water flow meter from the main line to the chlorination system to properly calibrate the flow rate; installation of a lightweight canopy structure above the reservoir to protect the chlorinator assembly; installation of a galvanized iron hand railing around the perimeter of the reservoir top to secure it and the water chlorination equipment from vandalism; and installation of plaques on each tap stand informing the users that they need to boil water before drinking (as additional safeguard) and that unauthorized connections are prohibited. Details including engineering drawings will be included in the Invitation for Bid Document which shall be sent to qualified firms responding to this solicitation notice.

Interested firms may send their responses no later than Monday, February 20, 2006 to the following address: The Deputy Chief of Party for Contracts, GEM Program, 2nd Floor, 1 Ladislawa Bldg., Ladislawa Ave., Buhangin, Davao City 8000, Philippines Responding firms should include together with their expression of interest information relative to the full name of the company, addresses, and contact numbers, the firm's VAT registration certificate, registration of business name, current business permit, audited financial statement for the past two years, list of completed equivalent projects showing amount of contract and client supported by certificates of completion; as well as a list of on-going related projects and key personnel.

The GEM Program is a collaborative undertaking of the U.S. and Philippine Governments to accelerate the economic development of Mindanao. Support is primarily provided by USAID and implemented in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo).

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

Invitation for Submission of Expressions of Interest/Statement of Qualifications

The Louis Berger Group, Inc., a U.S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program is inviting qualified local engineering and related service firms to submit their expressions of interest/qualifications statement for possible contract award for the supply, delivery, and installation of solar power systems for two national high schools in Parang, Maguindanao Province, and in Lantawan, Basilan Province.

The work which will be contracted includes the provision of a solar power system to operate 5 computer workstations and other components which will run for 5-6 hours a day, 7 days a week. Other components include a desk jet printer, 2 electric fans, 2 wired fluorescent lighting, a D-link 8 port hub for local area networking, and a GILAT modem for VSAT-based internet connectivity. Proponents must also indicate the availability of technical support and training package(s) for local school personnel relative to the maintenance and upkeep of the solar power system.

The system will include the solar plant composed of the solar panels, batteries, charge controller, inverter, ampere hour counter, wiring of all equipment, battery house mounting platform for the solar panels, among others.

Cost proposals should exclude the cost of acquiring the computers and the other components, as well the cost of the internet connectivity.

Procurement will be according to Part 15 of the U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulations - Contracting by Negotiation. Qualified firms responding to this notice will be asked to submit technical and cost proposals and contractor selection will be based on how technical proposals are scored based on technical evaluation criteria, and the offeror's price offer.

Interested firms may send their responses no later than Monday, February 20, 2006 to the following address: The Deputy Chief of Party for Contracts, GEM Program, 2nd Floor, 1 Ladislawa Bldg., Ladislawa Ave., Buhangin, Davao City 8000, Philippines. A pre-proposal submission conference may be held o/a the last week of February. Responding firms should include together with their expression of interest information relative to the full name of the company, addresses, and contact numbers, the firm's VAT registration certificate, registration of business name, current business permit, audited financial statement for the past two years, list of completed equivalent projects showing amount of contract and client - supported by certificates of completion; as well as a list of on-going related projects and key personnel.

The GEM Program is a collaborative undertaking of the U.S. and Philippine Governments to accelerate the economic development of Mindanao. Support is provided by USAID and implemented in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council.

NOTICE OF SEARCH FOR
PALOMPON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PRESIDENCY

Minimum Personal Qualifications:

1. Preferably at least thirty five (35) years old but not more than sixty one (61) years old on the date of application for the position.
2. Must be a Filipino citizen.
3. Must be a holder of a Master's Degree, but preferably with a Doctoral Degree.
4. Must have a proven track record as top administrator (at least managerial/professorial level), whether in public or private, for at least a period of five (5) years. This must be supported by a document (e.g., Certification or Special Order from the concerned party) stating the managerial, professorial and/or administrative experience and the period covered.
5. Must possess leadership and managerial skills within the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals and objectives of the college.
6. Must be of good moral character. Conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude or administrative charge shall be a ground for disqualification.

Note: Qualified applicants are requested to submit the following:

1. Formal Application Letter addressed to:
   Honorable Chair of the Board of Trustees
   Palompon Institute of Technology
   Palompon, Leyte
   Attention: The Secretariat
   Search Committee for Presidency
2. Detailed Curriculum Vitae and authenticated supporting documents
3. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission, and Development Plan of the College within a four-year period
4. Neuro-psychiatric Examination Result accomplished by a competent physician
5. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician from a regional medical center
6. Clearance Certificates (original) from the following:
   a. Ombudsman or Sandiganbayan
   b. Civil Service Commission
   c. National Bureau of Investigation
7. Accomplished CSC Form 212, under oath

Important: Interested applicants must send the above-mentioned documentary requirements in seven (7) sets/copies on or before **February 28, 2006** to any of the following:

MR. CELSO C. RAYMUNDO
Board Secretary
Palompon Institute of Technology
Palompon, Leyte

Office of Commissioner **NONA S. RICAFORT**
Commission on Higher Education
DAP Bldg., Ortigas Center
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

DR. MARIA RITA CASTILLON-ORTIZ, Ed.D.
Officer-In-Charge/Chair of the Search Committee
Commission on Higher Education Region VIII
Tacloban City 6500

(PDI-January 22, 29 & Feb. 5, 2006)

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URGENTLY NEEDED!
FOOD TECHNOLOGIST

- BSFT graduate
- At least 1-year work experience in R & D, quality assurance, production & sales
- Computer literate
- Good communication skills

Submit personally your resumé and credentials to:
TSB ENTERPRISES, INC.
148 Philand Drive Ext., Pasong Tamo
Tandang Sora, Q.C. T-931-6466

IMMEDIATE HIRING
2 Agri-Business Management Persons

- Agri-Business Management graduate
- at least 2 years experience in managing agri-based small/medium enterprise
- excellent oral and written communication
- willing to be based in Region 2
- work involves traveling & working with upland farmers
- computer literate

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USAID

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential furniture/equipment, appliances, and computer equipment, on an **"AS IS-WHERE IS"** basis.

All items can be inspected on February 13 & 14, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Last day of sale will be on Wednesday, **February 15, 2006 from 8:30 to 2:00 p.m.** at USAID Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Blvd. (formerly Tramo St.), Pasay City. Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on Friday, February 17, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier, 8th floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy S. Arquisola or Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-96-84, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

(PDI–Feb. 4,5, 11 & 12, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
CITY OF BAYAWAN
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
http www.bayawancity.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *City of Bayawan*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC-I), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project

BID NO.	PR NO.	ITEMS	SOURCE OF FUNDS
06-001	JO 100-06-01-002A	To supply and deliver Diesel Fuel for the LGU Operations - CY 2006	General Fund

Bid documents shall be available at the BAC Office, Annex Building Sports Complex Building, LGU Bayawan City upon payment of prescribed non-refundable fee

Bidders shall drop their technical and financial proposals in the bid box at the BAC-I Secretariat Office, Bayawan City on or before the deadline of submission of bids

All particulars relative to eligibility process, opening and evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provision of RA 9184

The City of Bayawan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the government. The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows.

Activities	*Schedule*
Issuance of Bid Documents	February 6 to March 3, 2006
Pre-bid Conference	February 21, 2006, 10:00 A.M.
Eligibility Check	Not later than March 3, 2006
Deadline/Opening of Bids	March 7, 2006, 10:30 A.M.

Approved by
(Sgd.) PANCHO F. VILLASIS
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Feb. 5 & 12, 2006)

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Reservations/Front Office/ Spa Receptionist

1. Good communication skills
2. Background in Customer Relations a plus

Restaurant Supervisor

1. With at least 2 years experience in a supervisory position in F&B
2. Knowledge in costings of food service, and kitchen operations a must
3. Good communication skills

Please come for interview with your resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 colored picture on February 8, 2006 at 1:00 PM

BRAVO! Restaurant
Adriatico cor. J. Nakpil Sts. Malate

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GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

PHYSICAL RESOURCES DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO BID

The GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM invites interested buyers who have the capability and engage on similar business to submit sealed proposals for the sale of Steel Tower on "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis to be conducted on February 17, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the Physical Resources Lounge, Level 1, Core B, New GSIS Headquarters Building, Pasay City. A pre-bidding conference will be held on February 15, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. (the same venue).

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MIN. BID
One (1) unit	Steel Tower	Philcomcen Building Ortigas Ave., Pasig City	P2,323,648.00

The above item may be inspected at the Philcomcen Building, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City during office hours. For inquiries, you may call Engr. Raymundo R. Caguioa Jr. or Mr. Ernesto Lopez at Tel. No. 891-62-95 or visit them at the Materials Management Department, Level 1, GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Pasay City. Official Bid Form will be issued upon submission of current Business / Mayor's Permit and payment of P100. 00 for the document.

Sealed bid shall be accompanied by refundable cash bid security equivalent to 10% of the total amount of the bid. Manager's, Cashier's or Certified Checks shall be accepted as cash.

The GSIS/PRDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informality of the bids received, to accept the bid most advantageous to the System; and does not guarantee that an award will be made. The decision of the GSIS/PRDC in this regard shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) ERIC BABAR ZERRUDO
Chairperson

(PDI – February 3 & 5, 2006)

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CDC Clark Development Corporation

IMMEDIATE HIRING

Given the thrust of Clark Development Corporation (CDC) to develop the Clark Expo as a center for entertainment-related tourism in the region, CDC is urgently in need of applicants for the following positions:

I. MARKETING HEAD (1)

Minimum Qualifications Standard:

1. Graduate of any four-year course, preferably business or tourism-related. Of further preference is an MBA degree holder, or have at least 18 units of Masteral Degree from a reputable college/ university.
2. At least five (5) years professional working experience in corporate and marketing functions, preferably in the events and real estate industry, of which at least two (2) years are at the management level with leadership and governance accountability over a department/team.
3. Strong charisma and interpersonal skills including proven capacity for initiative, focused persistence, diplomacy, effective communication, maturity of judgment and a practical orientation to marketing.
4. Must be of good moral character.
5. Must have good written and oral communication skills.
6. Must be computer literate.
7. Experience in marketing/promotions work is an advantage.
8. Must be creative and innovative.
9. Must be hardworking, dependable and a team player.
10. Must be willing to work overtime, if required.

II. MARKETING OFFICER (3)

Minimum Qualifications Standard:

1. Graduate of a four-year course, preferably tourism or business-related.
2. Must be of good moral character.
3. Must have good written and oral communication skills.
4. Must be computer literate.
5. At least three (3) years experience in marketing and promotions work is an advantage.
6. Must be creative and innovative.
7. Must be hardworking, dependable and a team player.
8. Must be willing to work overtime, if required.

Acceptance of applications will be from February 7, 2006 to February 13, 2006.

Please submit your applications to the Planning and Placement Section, Human Resources Department, Clark Development Corporation, Bldg. 2127, 3rd Floor, cor. E. Quirino and C.P. Garcia Sts., Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga or you can send your applications thru e-mail at **thelmaocampo@clark.com.ph:**

11. Bio-data with 2"x2" pictures
12. Diploma/Transcript of Records
13. Certificates of Employment
14. Certificates of Training
15. Barangay and Police Clearances

For more inquiries, please call (045) 599-9000 loc. 533 and/or 535.

CDC-HRD

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP (492-06-004)

USAID/PHILIPPINES is soliciting proposals from firms who qualify through experience to provide up to two (2) years of **residential and warehousing services** to USAID/Philippines. The contractor shall provide tools of trade, equipment and furnish direct labor personnel in the performance of required services. Work will be monitored by USAID/Philippines. The Contractor will be paid at fixed monthly rates as appropriate remuneration for services rendered by qualified personnel.

Contract Services are expected to begin on or about May 1, 2006 and end April 30, 2008 with options to renew the contract. A USAID direct contract will be awarded.

Detailed information about this solicitation is contained in Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 492-06-004 which may be obtained starting January 30, 2006 from the Office of Regional Procurement, USAID/Philippines, 8F PNB Financial Center, Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City.

(PDI--Jan 29, Feb 4 & 5, 2006)

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"Saber que el hombre no vivira de solo pan,
mas de todo lo que sale de la boca de Dios vivira el hombre."
- Deuteronomio 8:3

*W*ith supreme and utmost joy, we celebrate the entry into
Eternal Life of our beloved

Elpidio P. Odulio Sr.

Husband, Father, Grandfather, Teacher, Sir Knight, Man of Faith

Born in San Antonio, Nueva Ecija on **November 16, 1916** and died at Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija on **February 3, 2006.**

His devoted wife, **Pacing**;

Children **Rene** and **Tessie**, and **Jun** and **Menie**;

Grandchildren **Rosette** and **Armand Paez**, **Raymond**, **Jon-jon** and **Joyce**, **Roscoe**, **Noni** and **Katz**, **Bong**, **Jeo**, and **Patti**; and

Great-Grandchildren **Nika**, **Eio**, **Alexandra**, and **Anton**

Will forever keep his legacy of loving service and faithful devotion in their hearts.

His remains lie in state at the Odulio residence in Ma. Theresa Subdivision, Cabanatuan City.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be held at the Divine Mercy Chapel, Ma. Theresa Subdivision at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 6, 2006, after which his remains will be brought to the Chapel of the Divine Mercy, Brgy. Atate, Palayan City, where a Mass will be offered followed by the Necrological rites of the Knights of Columbus on Monday at 5:00 p.m.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be on Tuesday, February 7, 2006. at 10:00 a.m. at the Chapel of the Divine Mercy, Palayan City. Interment will follow at the Odulio family crypt.

*In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the **Palayan City Divine Mercy Foundation.** Please make checks payable to the "Palayan City Divine Mercy Foundation (for Elpidio P. Odulio, Sr.)"*

"Even when I walk
through a dark
valley, I feel no
harm. For you are
at my side, your
rod and staff give
me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

Always caring...

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❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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JUDGE DOMINGO O. LUCENARIO

of Magallanes, Sorsogon
(August 4, 1929 – February 4, 2006)

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 76.

His loving wife, **Loreto**; children **Yasmin & Reggie**, **Danton** and **Flor**, **Debra & Jun**, **Doy & Nida**, **Dina**, **Darrow**, **Milo & Anne**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Sta. Rita Church, Philam Homes, Quezon City.

Message of Thanks

The bereaved wife Alfaire de Guzman-Sulit & son, Crispin Alexander
and relatives of the late

LCDR CRISPIN M. SULIT JR PN
PMA MAALAB CLASS 1993
Who joined his Creator on January 20, 2006 at the age of 35

wish to convey their heartfelt gratitude to all those who paid their last respect and grieved with them, offered masses and prayers, sent flowers, messages of sympathy, kept vigil, were present at the Necrological Services, Funeral Rites and who in various ways gave them comfort at the time of their great lost and sorrow.

In loving remembrance of our dearly beloved

WILLIAM F. GEMPERLE
(† FEBRUARY 6, 1983)
ESPECIALLY ON HIS 23RD DEATH ANNIVERSARY.

Holy Mass will be offered tomorrow, Monday, February 6, 2006 in the following churches:

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church, Magallanes Village, Makati City	6:15 AM, 7:15 AM, 12:15 NN & 6:15 PM
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park,	6:15 AM, 7:30 AM, 12:15 NN & 6:00 PM
St. John Bosco Parish Church, Pasay Road, Makati City	6:30 AM, 7:30 AM, 12:15 NN & 6:00 PM
Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel, Greenbelt, Makati City	7:15 AM, 12:15 NN, 5:45 PM & 7:00 PM
St. James Parish Church, Ayala Alabang	6:20 AM & 6:30 PM
St. Jerome & St. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:00 AM, 12:15 NN & 6:00 PM
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish BF Homes, Parañaque City	6:00 AM, 6:45 AM & 7:00 PM
Parish Church of the Resurrection BF Homes, Parañaque City	5:30 AM, 6:30 AM & 6:30 PM
St. Joseph Parish, Tambo, Parañaque	6:30 AM
St. Joseph (Bamboo Organ) Church, Las Piñas	6:30 AM
St. Andrew Parish, La Huerta, Parañaque	6:00 PM
Shrine of Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life, Pope John Paul II Youth Center	5:30 PM
Our Lady of Sorrows Church, FB Harrison, Pasay	6:00 AM
Nuestra Señora de Guia Church, Ermita, Manila	6:30 AM & 6:00 PM
Our Lady of Remedies, Malate Church	6:00 AM & 6:00 PM

We, his family, sincerely thank our relatives, friends and readers for kindly remembering him in prayer.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late
FRANCISCA (PAX) VILLANUEVA PAREDES
OCTOBER 4, 1923 – JANUARY 27, 2006

wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends and all those who sent condolences, flowers, donations, offered Masses and prayers, called from abroad, attended the funeral rites and helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

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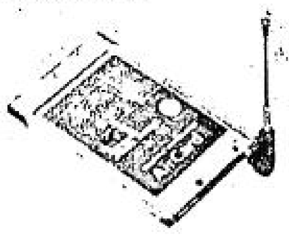

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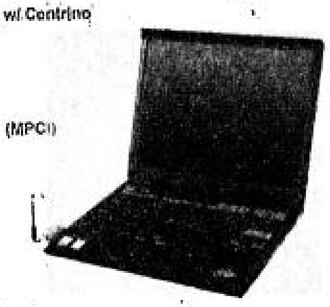

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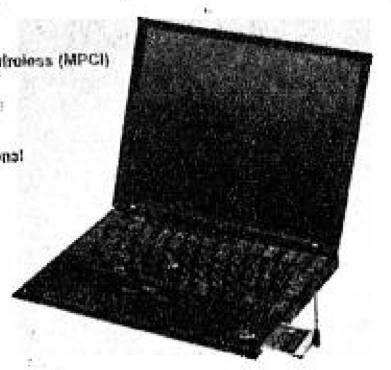

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Offer valid up to Mar 31, 2006. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0507 Series of 2006

Sunday LifeStyle

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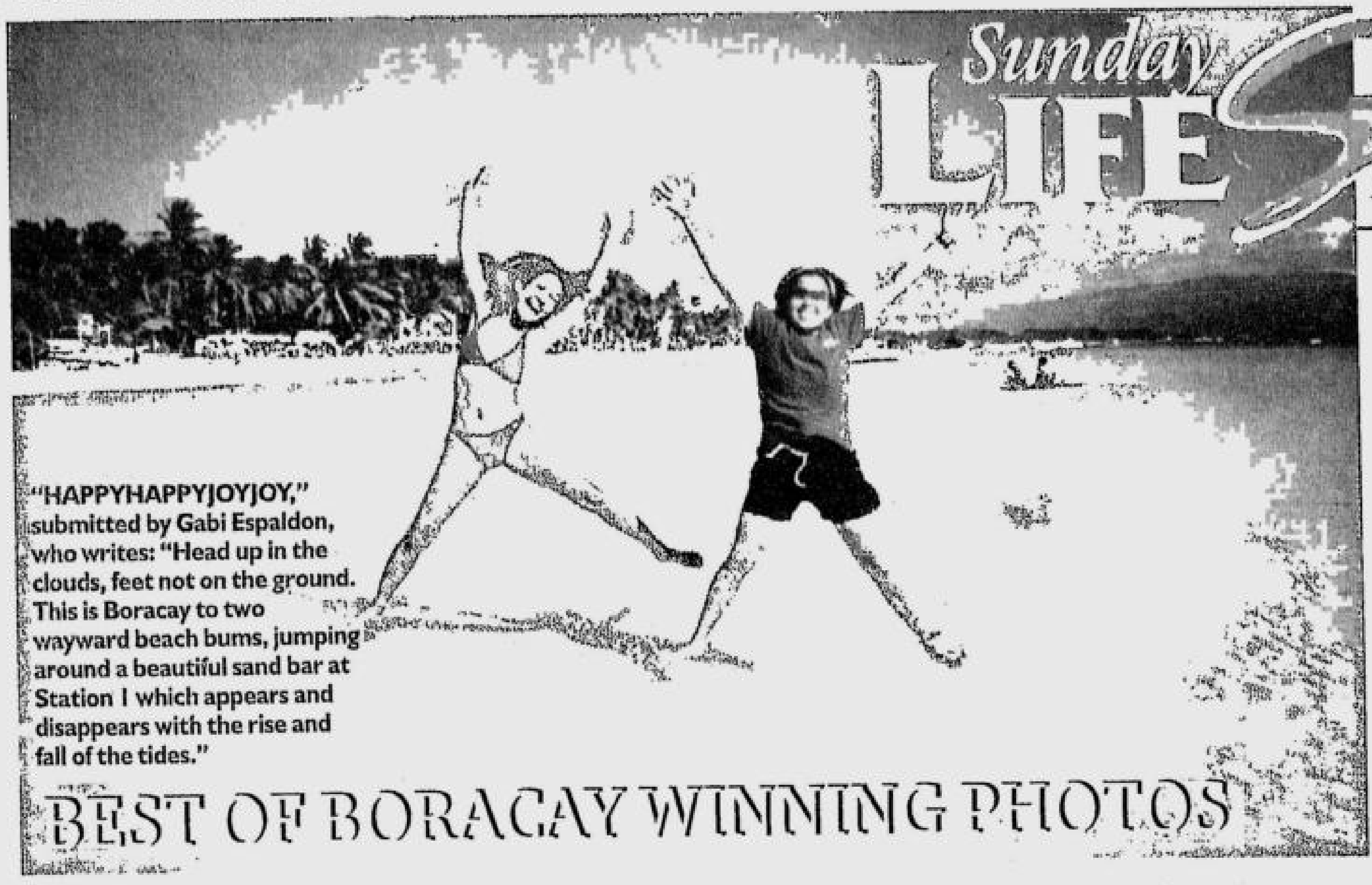
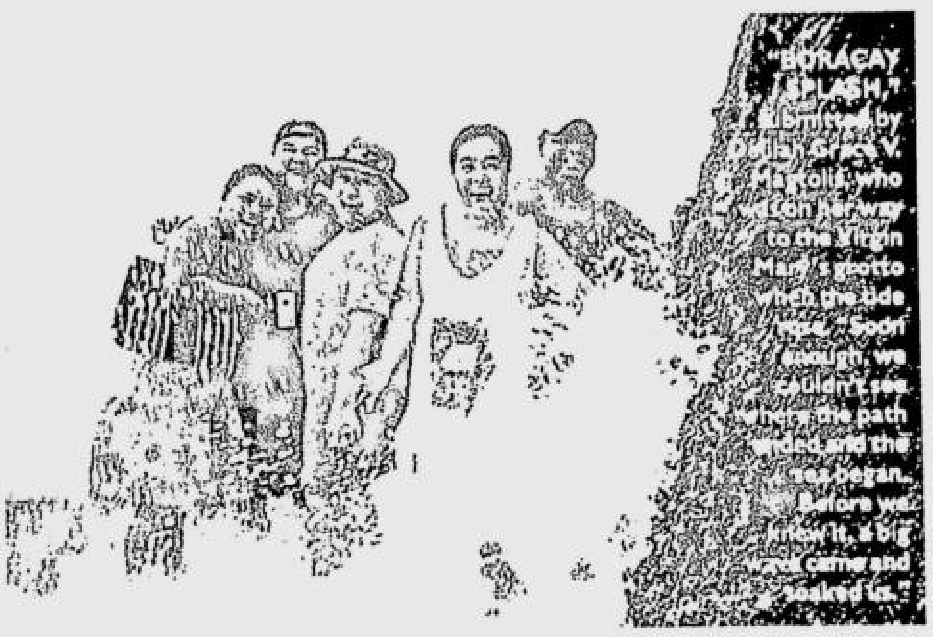
or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



"HAPPYHAPPYJOYJOY," submitted by Gabi Espaldon, who writes: "Head up in the clouds, feet not on the ground. This is Boracay to two wayward beach bums, jumping around a beautiful sand bar at Station 1 which appears and disappears with the rise and fall of the tides."

BEST OF BORACAY WINNING PHOTOS



"BORACAY SPLASH," submitted by Delilah Grace V. Magtolis, who took her way to the Virgin Mary's grotto when the tide rose. "Soon enough, we couldn't see where the path ended and the sea began. Before we knew it, a big wave came and soaked us."

Oh joy!

WHEN WE ASKED IF YOU had a photograph that best captured a vacation experience in Boracay, we thought we would get a lot of photos, yes, but we didn't think we'd get hundreds of photos.

Our inbox is now filled to bursting with all kinds of photos taken in Boracay, most of them scenic. The sea, the white sand, the clouds, the rock, the rainbow and the sunset, the sunset, the sunset. We know the Boracay sunset is beyond beautiful but enough already. No more sunset photos, please.

What we are looking for are shots of vacationers doing whatever it is that people do in the unforgettable paradise that is Boracay. In other words, experiential more than scenic, although it won't hurt if the scene is there, too.

This week's winners are the photos submitted by Gabi Espaldon and Delilah Grace Magtolis.

They are now qualified as finalists for the top three prizes, not to mention that they may claim their Nivea Sun Gift Packs from our marketing department on any work day (call 8978808 and ask for Hazel Soriaga).

Contest nitty-gritty

The Best of Boracay Photo Contest is open to all photo enthusiasts who have personally visited Boracay.

If your photo entry is in print, it must be 8" x 10" in size. Sorry, no prints will be returned. If in digital form, it must be in 200 resolution JPEG format and unaltered.

Submit the photo with a short caption describing the experience, where in Boracay and when the photo was taken, as well as the following information: your name, address, mobile phone number, landline phone number and e-mail address.

You may submit as many entries as you wish but you may win only once. It is important to send or e-mail each entry separately.

Send your entry to the Best of Boracay Photo Contest, Lifestyle c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Don Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, or e-mail to travelpromo@inquirer.com.ph

Entries must be received at the PDI office if hand-delivered or via e-mail by March 24. Mailed entries must be postmarked March 24, 2006.

Entries will be judged by a panel consisting of representatives from the Philippine Daily INQUIRER, Sun Resorts Inc., Fuentes Publicity Network Inc. and professional photographers.

Criteria for judging are: 40 percent relevance, 30 percent overall impact, and 30 percent quality and technique.

Winners must submit the negatives or CD files of their winning entries before claiming their prizes.

All winning entries will become properties of Philippine Daily INQUIRER and Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., which reserve the right to use the photos without any liability.

Enticing prizes

The first-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for four to Boracay courtesy of Seair; five days-four night stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

The second-prize winner gets round-trip tickets to Boracay for two courtesy of Seair; four days-three nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

The third-prize winner gets round trip tickets for two to Boracay courtesy of Seair; three days-two nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

Winning photos will be published in Sunday Lifestyle on April 9, 2006.

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SE K300i	2,750	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6101	8,000	3,200	FREE	FREE	FREE
Motorola RAZR V3	10,500	6,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
SE K750i	17,500	12,800	7,100	FREE	FREE
Nokia N90	33,000	28,200	22,500	15,200	FREE

When applying for your postpaid line, bring a valid I.D. and your latest competitor bill. If competitor bill is not available, bring Proof of Billing and Proof of Income.
The Sun Shops: **Metro Manila** | Robinsons Galleria | SM North Edsa | SM Megamall | SM Manila | Robinsons Manila | Park Square One | Robinsons Metro East | SM Fairview | SM Centerpoint | SM San Lazaro Greenhills | Shangri-la Plaza | Robinsons Cainta | Robinsons Place Pioneer | **North Luzon** | Robinsons Starmills | SM Marilao | SM Baguio | Robinsons Angeles | **South Luzon** | Robinsons Sta. Rosa | Robinsons Imus Robinsons Dasmariñas | Robinsons Lipa | SM Bacoor | SM Southmall | Filinvest Festival Mall | SM Bicutan | SM Lucena | **Visayas** | Robinsons Iloilo | Robinsons Cebu | Robinsons Bacolod | SM Cebu | Ayala Center Cebu | **Mindanao** | SM Davao | Gaisano Davao | Robinsons Cagayan de Oro

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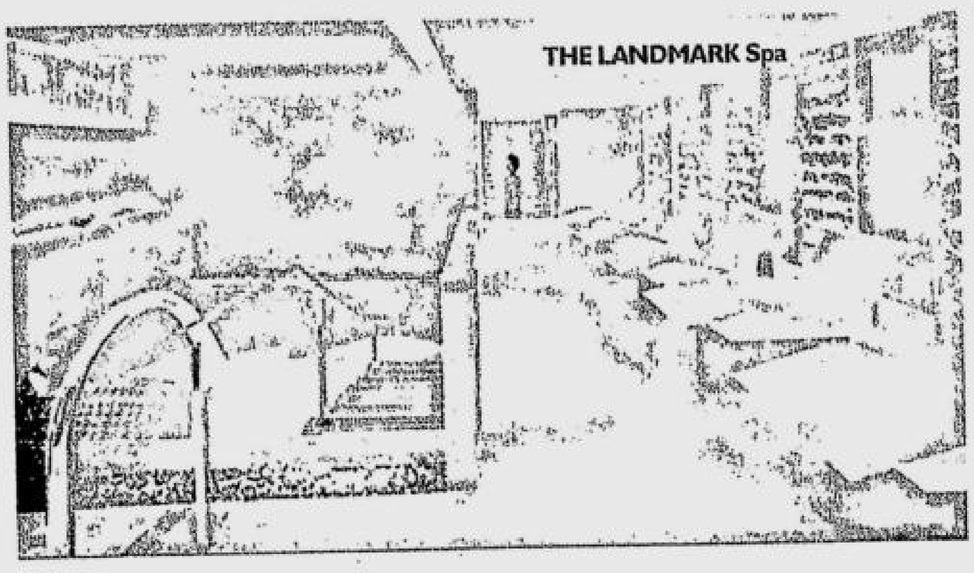
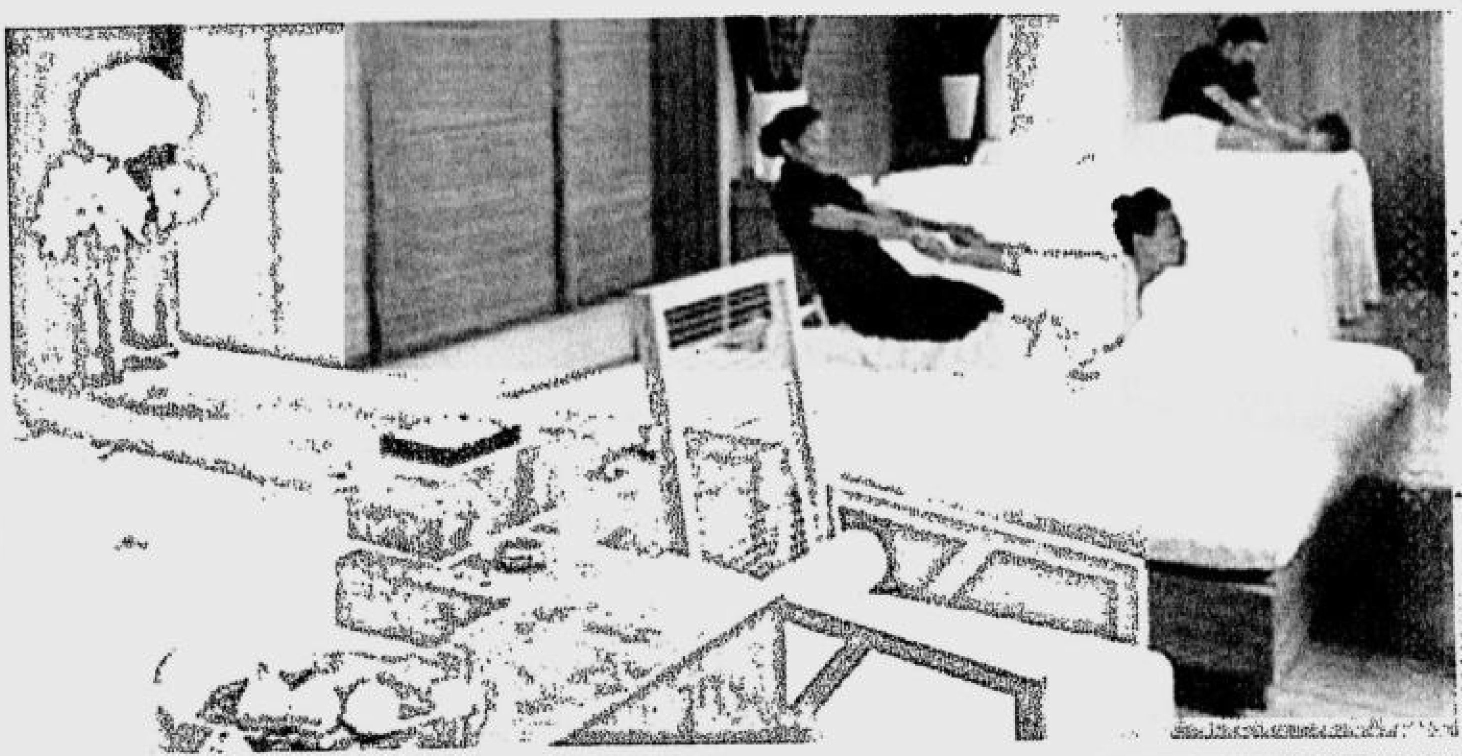



SPA DOUBLE Room

PHOTOS FROM WWW.MANDARINORIENTAL.COM

Luxury in a jiffy

By Kitty Go
Contributor

IN TODAY'S WEB-BASED WORLD, FIVE years of marriage is the new seven-year itch. And for me and my husband, Matthew, planning a fifth year anniversary was hardly romantic. We did the best we could do for ourselves given our requirements—convenience, luxury and location. We booked ourselves for a long weekend at the new Landmark Mandarin Oriental (LMO) in Hong Kong (www.mandarinoriental.com/+852-2132-0188)

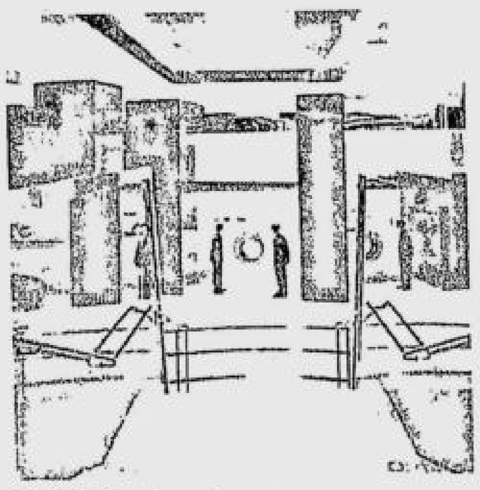
The LMO is one of Hong Kong's newest hotels (the other is the Four Seasons adjoining the IFC Mall) that opened last year. At the starting rack rate of HK $4,000 (US $500) a night, it holds the record of having the most expensive but the best laid-out rooms in the former British colony.

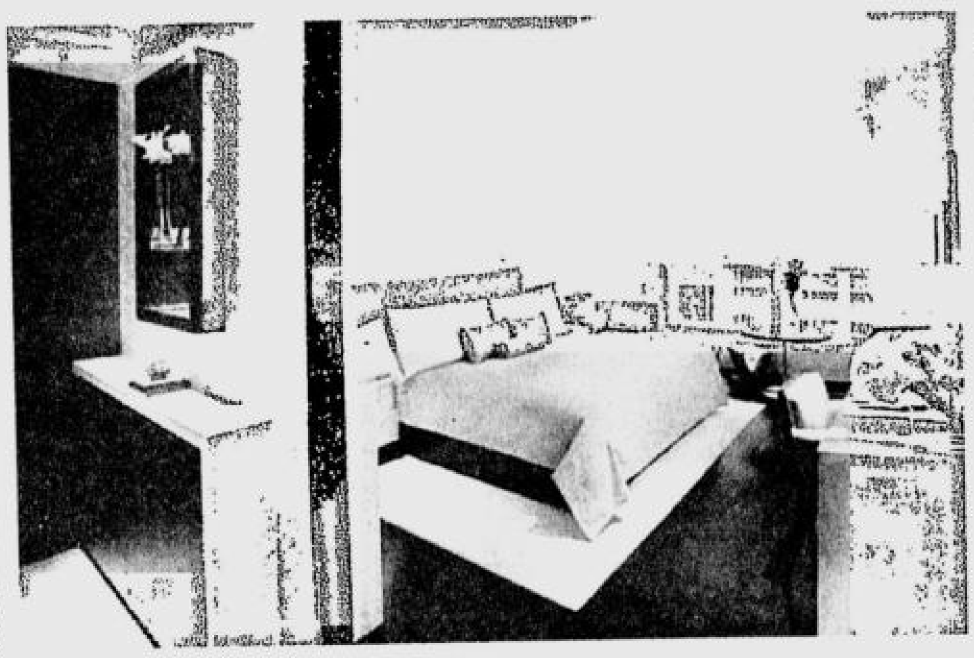
Although LMO claims to have the biggest rooms in Hong Kong per square foot, this was not evident when I compared our room to rooms of the same standard at the Four Seasons IFC where my friends were staying. But starting with the bathrooms, LMO wins hands-down not only in design but with generous sizes of the UK's cult brand, Aromatherapy Associates, versus the Four Seasons' more common L'Occitane. Top that with the privacy, impeccable Mandarin service and prestige of saying, "I'm staying at the Landmark MO."

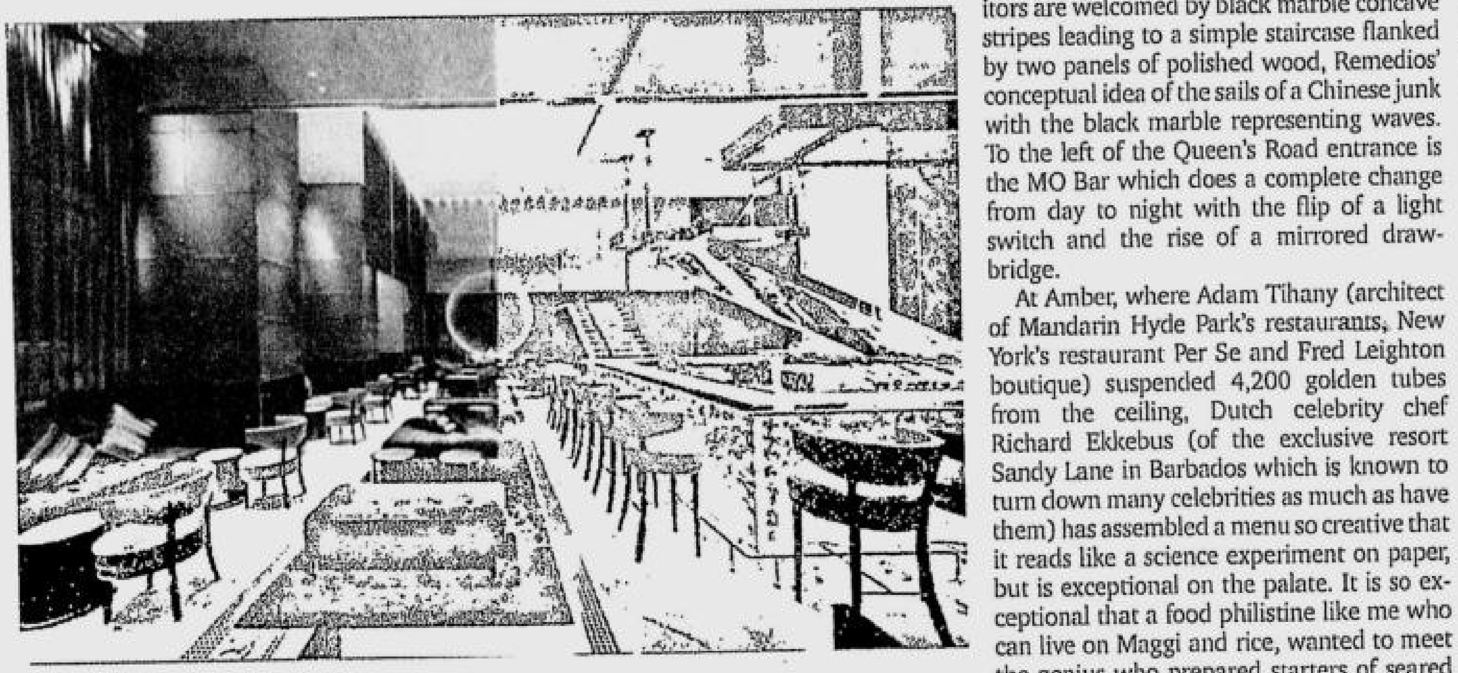
Hotel of choice

It is fast becoming the international fashion crowd's hotel of choice, being steps away from many flagship stores in Central. When we were there, most rooms were already booked for the Chanel and Louis Vuitton openings for the following week. Josephine Lee, director of public relations at LMO, refuses to classify the 113-room hotel as a boutique hotel, preferring to use the label "small ultra-luxury hotel."

Unlike the original (but legendary) Mandarin Oriental (MO) on Connaught Road, where the classic décor is very Oriental, the LMO does not have one singular theme but it has standout style. Los Angeles-based architect Peter Remedios (of Park Hyatt Tokyo and New York Marriott Marquis fame) has created a quiet area in the busy Central district that is comfortable, welcoming and, most of all, private.


HOTEL'S main entrance


SUPERIOR or Deluxe Room


THE MO Bar

The LMO is private as much as the MO is bustling. Its lobby is designed like a living room with two small sitting areas, display cases and book shelves housing art, photographs, antique jewelry and a selection of style bibles.

Entrance to the LMO is through a discreet, landscaped driveway on Queen's Road, next to the new Harvey Nichols. (There is, in fact, a tendency to notice Harvey Nicks first!) Visitors are welcomed by black marble concave stripes leading to a simple staircase flanked by two panels of polished wood, Remedios' conceptual idea of the sails of a Chinese junk with the black marble representing waves. To the left of the Queen's Road entrance is the MO Bar which does a complete change from day to night with the flip of a light switch and the rise of a mirrored drawbridge.

At Amber, where Adam Tihany (architect of Mandarin Hyde Park's restaurants, New York's restaurant Per Se and Fred Leighton boutique) suspended 4,200 golden tubes from the ceiling, Dutch celebrity chef Richard Ekkebus (of the exclusive resort Sandy Lane in Barbados which is known to turn down many celebrities as much as have them) has assembled a menu so creative that it reads like a science experiment on paper, but is exceptional on the palate. It is so exceptional that a food philistine like me who can live on Maggi and rice, wanted to meet the genius who prepared starters of seared tuna rolled in crispy chicken skin and cherry tomatoes and watermelon with cabernet reduction, a main course of Anjou pigeon and chocolate sauce (tasting is believing) and the dessert of cheesecake ice cream (no, this is not remotely close to *keso*-flavored dirty ice cream).

It is one of those restaurants (like Petrus in London) where a bottle of wine would account for three-quarters of your total bill and the debt of an African nation. My husband was impressed with the wine list and I, being the wine ignoramus that I am (I always order the cheapest), was impressed with the hand-held computer wine list the sommelier worked with. To which Matthew quipped, "You can buy that program anywhere but they have a great cellar."

Biggest indulgence

The biggest indulgence of the hotel has to be its rooms, which may not have the best views but they are quiet with heavenly beds made up with 400-thread count cotton sheets and a throw.

The glass-walled bathrooms feature generous bathtubs (in suites, they are the size of fish ponds). Closets double as dressing rooms, and in larger rooms, there are well-appointed dressing tables that take advantage of natural light.

And based on the smile on Matthew's face, it was tech heaven—any content from any personal media devices could easily be wired to the room's media system, all plugs and wires were in place, the bathroom had a mini LCD TV. Needless to say there was a bigger version and a DVD player in the room.

The indulgence of the hotel may be its rooms but the spa will serve as sanctuary to many locals and hotel residents. The 21,000 sq ft spa has a Turkish *hammam* for men and an amethyst steam room for women; dry-heat laconiums (Roman-style tiled rooms), vitality pools, heated stone chaise lounges, ice fountains and aromatherapy showers. There are also relaxation rooms, yoga and Pilates studios, a gym and a spa café. A swimming pool will open in 2006.

The LMO is so centrally located that w spent our anniversary on romantic pursuit such as going to the barber shop, threadin my face, going to the bank, visiting the ey doctor, going to the gym, all within the hote or steps from the hotel.

In the future, we may not even be able t "get away from the dogs" because the LM like many European hotels, takes dogs. F nally, a hotel that understands the tru meaning of urban luxury.

Kitty Go is the author of "Chic Happens: A Explosive Celebrity and Fashion Insider A count," available at National Book Store an PowerBooks nationwide.

ACCOR
Philippine Plaza Holdings, Inc.
HOTEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA
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ng Network in A
Tuesday
2006

ACCOR and Philippine Plaza holdings Inc. meet the press: Patrick Lee, director of Philippine Plaza Holdings Inc. and of Allied Property Limited of HK; Patrick Bassett, vice president for operations, Accor Asia Pacific; Oscar Salvacion, president, Philippine Plaza Holdings Inc.; Michael Issenberg, managing director, Accor Asia Pacific; Masao Hashimoto, director of Philippine Plaza Holdings Inc. and VP of Kajima Overseas Asia Pte Ltd. of Japan; Bernd Schneider, general manager, Hotel Philippine Plaza.

Deluxe hotel to get a new name

HOTEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA HAS signed a new management contract with Accor, the European leader and one of the world's largest groups in travel, tourism and corporate services.

The hotel will be relaunched as the Sofitel Philippine Plaza in 2007 after a multimillion dollar renovation.

Michael Issenberg, managing director of Accor Asia Pacific, said the change would be a significant event for Manila's hotel industry as the Sofitel brand would become Asia-Pacific's largest deluxe hotel brand by the end of 2007.

Accor will help draw customers from both established markets and also emerging markets such as Thailand, India, Australia and South America, which have well-established links with the Philippines and where Accor has a very strong presence.

The hotel's main dining outlet, Spiral, is scheduled for opening in March after a $2.5-million renovation. Spiral is envisioned as a state-of-the-art interactive dining experience that will integrate both indoor and outdoor environments. Its multi-cuisine open plan cooking stations and seating for 480 guests will position it as Manila's most fashionable dining destination.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Discounts at travel expo

THE 13TH Travel Tour Expo (TTE), the largest trade and consumer event of the travel industry, will be held Feb. 10-12 at the Megatrade Hall, Mandaluyong City.

Major international and domestic airlines will be offering discounts and attractive travel deals.

Philippine Airlines is the official carrier of TTE '06, while Air Philippines is among the sponsors. Among those joining the expo are Air Sahara-Airesources Inc., Asian Spirit Inc., AV Star Int'l Inc., Cebu Pacific, Continental Airlines, Gulf Air, Hawaiian Airlines, Interisland Airlines, Japan Airlines International Co. Ltd., Jet Airways-Asia Pacific Chartering, Kenya Airways-Pan Euro International, Le Passage to India-Airesources Inc., Lufthansa German Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Qatar Airways, Royal Brunei Airlines-Travel Wide Associated Sales Phils. Inc., Singapore Airlines, Southeast Asian Airlines, Supersonic Services Inc.

Theme this year is "Travel Lifestyle: Experience the Difference!" Call 5520026 to 29, e-mail info@ptaatraveltourexpo.com.ph, or log on to www.ptaatraveltourexpo.com.ph.

Budget-friendly Boracay

ENJOY the many pleasures of Boracay at budget-friendly rates with Sun Season 2006, a special deal at Sun Village Resorts. A Boracay getaway is available for as low as P2,800 per person for a three-days-two-nights stay. Couples can spend quality time together for only P3,400 per person. Solo visitors pay only P6,600.

Each person only has to pay P4,100 (triple occupancy), P4,000 (double occupancy) and P9,400 (single occupancy) for a four-days-three-nights stay. The packages include standard room accommodation, breakfasts starting on the second day, welcome drinks and round-trip land and boat transfers.

The Sun Season 2006 package is available at any of three Sun Village Boracay Resorts until June 13 (except April 7-24, Holy Week Super Peak; and Jan. 25-Feb. 1, Chinese New Year) on Standard, Deluxe and VIP rooms. Call (632)8131338 or 8937293, or the Boracay office at 62-036-2885541. Fax (632)8171186 or e-mail sunresorts@tri-isys.com.

Best choice

LUFTHANSA is the best choice for business travelers. Its daily long-haul night flights leave Manila at 8:55 p.m. so business travelers can still put in a full day's work before going to the airport.

Lufthansa's PrivateBed is the first-of-its-kind business class seat that reclines to an almost-flat, two-meter-long sky bed.

Lufthansa's FlyNet is the first ever in-flight wireless Internet at 30,000 feet.

For more information, visit www.lufthansa-philippines.com or call the Lufthansa Reservation office at 5806400.

Special promo

VERDE Island Resort in Batangas City offers a special promotion to mark the Chinese New Year.

Overnight accommodation rates per person per room on a twin-sharing basis are P2,850 at Villa Camaro, P3,050 at Casa Aplaya, and P3,250 at Casa Dahilig. All packages include round-trip boat transfer, welcome drinks, complimentary breakfast, complimentary set dinner for two, etc.

The resort also offers guests a free Chinese New Year pudding. The promo runs from Jan. 29-Feb. 5. Call Makati booking office at 7500466 or 7500470.

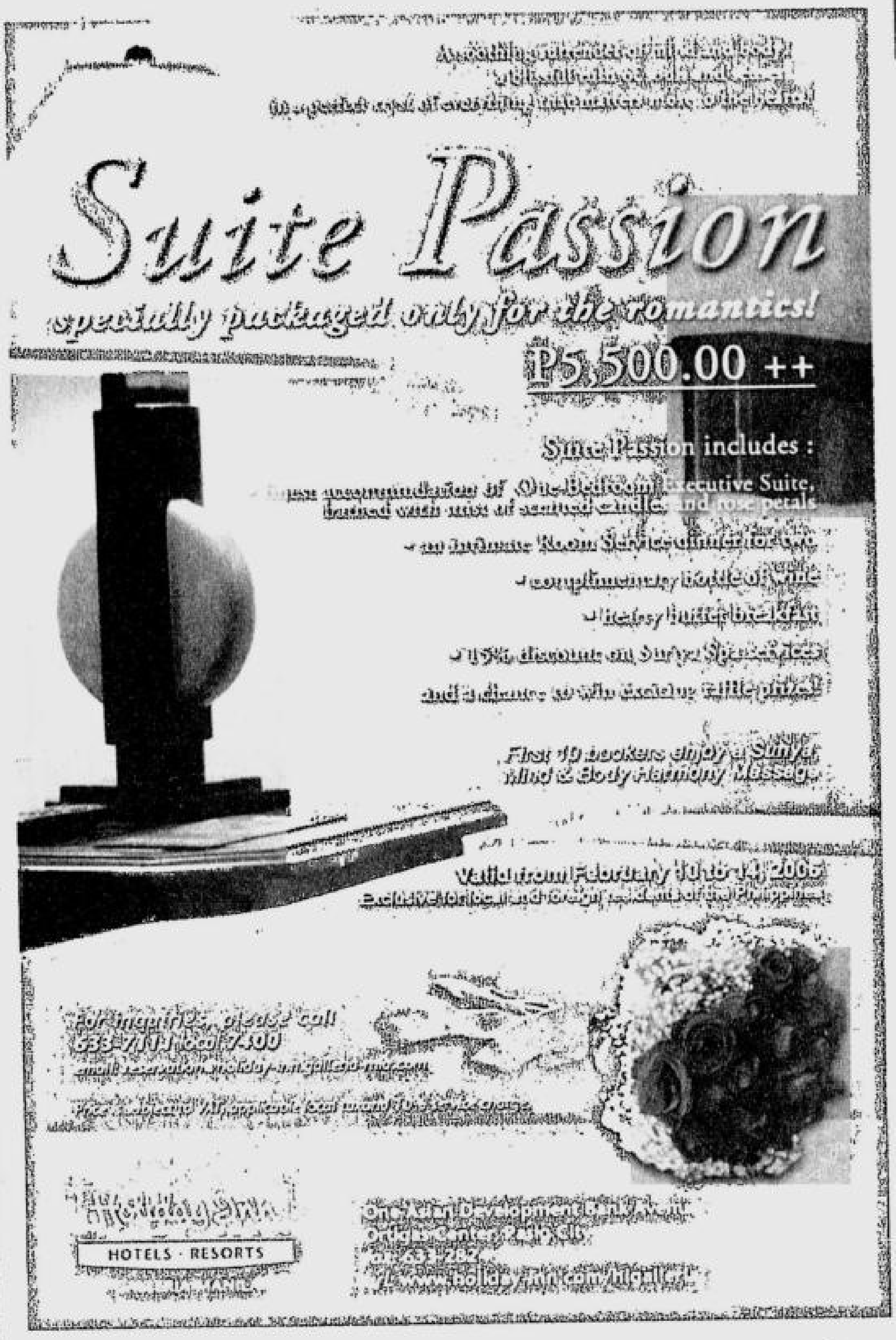
Travel book

THE LATEST travel book by Amadis Ma. Guerrero, "The Archipelago Sanctuaries," launched recently at Rockwell Center, is now available in National Bookstore, PowerBooks and other bookstores. T book is distributed by Anvil Publishin

New Macau hot spot

MACAU recently opened the Macau Fi man's Wharf, a world-class complex combines entertainment, retail, food, tel, marina, convention and exhibitio ities all in one place. The site of over 93,000 square meters is located at M outer harbor and is a five-minute wal the Macau Ferry Terminal and Helipo Macau Fisherman's Wharf provides a pletely different festive experience fo tourists and locals alike, and represe new development in the Macau touri dustry. Macau Fisherman's Wharf is 24 hours with no admission fee. Ope hours of all rides are from 10 a.m. to daily, and tickets are easily available booths. For Macau tour packages, ca 8122595/8130947 or visit www.mac tourism.gov.mo.

The new Mandarin in Hong Kong calls itself a 'small ultra-luxury hotel'



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Hard to feed file # 1

"My daughter Misha who's a picky eater gained weight faster with PediaSure!"

Malu Salud
Long-time PediaSure mom

When Misha turned 7, I noticed she began to look thin. For almost a year, I searched for nutritional products that would make her look healthier, even going to the extent of buying imported vitamins. Then, I heard about PediaSure. I gave her 2 glasses a day and she filled out on the first week! Kaya when it comes to Misha, I'm sure with PediaSure!

PediaSure and Picky Eaters

Willy Pardinas
Director, Pediatric Nutrition
and Product Development
Abbott International Division

"Children who are hard to feed like Misha are at risk of delayed physical growth and mental development. That's why they need effective nutritional supplementation to augment their food intake," says Willy Pardinas, Director of Pediatric Nutrition, Abbott International in Chicago.

A breakthrough in pediatric nutrition, PediaSure is complete and nutritionally-balanced milk especially formulated to meet the dietary requirements of hard-to-feed children.

PediaSure is the only milk formula clinically-proven and doctor-recommended for faster catch-up growth. It has a superior nutrient profile of 27 vitamins and minerals plus the following unique benefits so children can get all the nutrition they need at balanced levels for optimal physical and mental growth:

Highest caloric density. A concentrated 1 kcal/mL formula provides for all the energy needs of active young kids.

All children have high energy requirements in relation to body size, as they are engaged in some form of physical activity all the time. However, they tend to be picky eaters, thus the need for high levels of calories to sustain play, learning and growth.

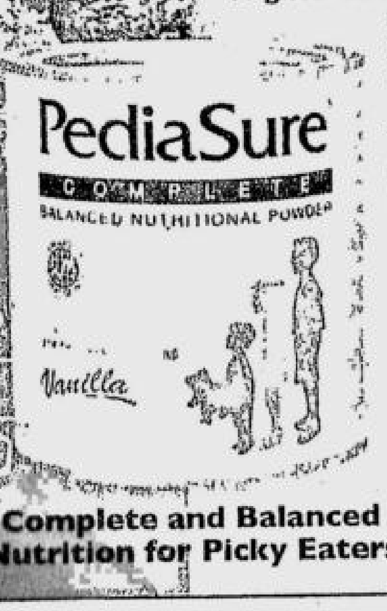
Dual carbohydrate advantage. A special blend of corn syrup solids and sucrose facilitates better absorption of carbohydrates.

Carbohydrates are needed to maintain healthy bodies and minds. It is the body's preferred source of fuel, even for processes involving the brain. A diet without adequate amounts of carbohydrates is a serious impediment in the total development of growing children.

Higher MCT (Medium Chain Triglycerides) fat content. Medium-chain fatty acids are absorbed in the bloodstream faster to help children build and maintain a healthy body mass.

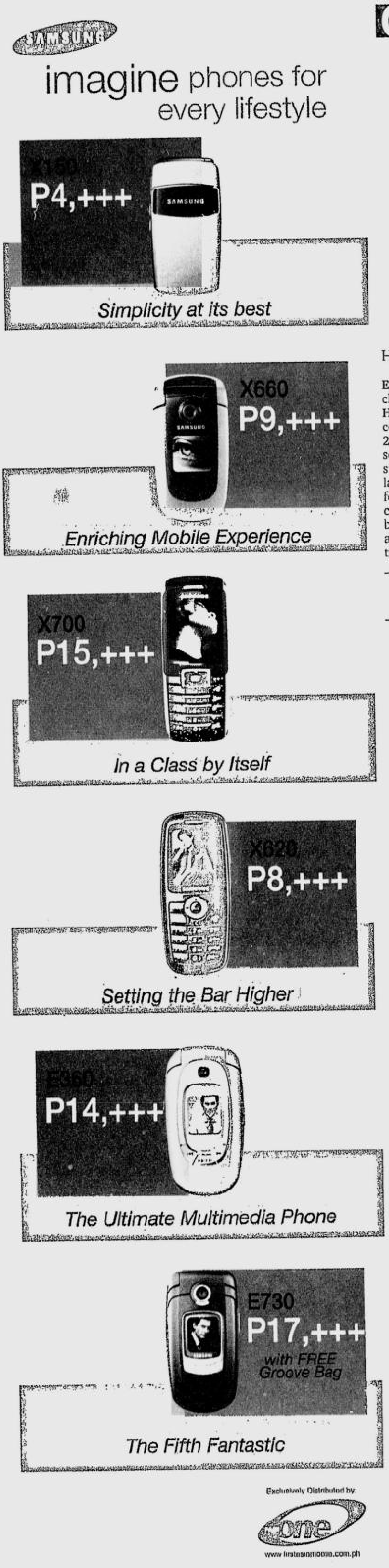
The result: better height and weight gain for children and lesser number of sick days. They have more energy and vitality and are generally observed by friends and family to be in the pink of health.

PediaSure is ideal as a milk supplement for helping hard-to-feed children meet 100% of their recommended daily allowance. It is available in delicious vanilla and chocolate flavors and has a smooth texture that kids will surely like.



Complete and Balanced Nutrition for Picky Eaters

Abbott
A Promise for Life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Milestones

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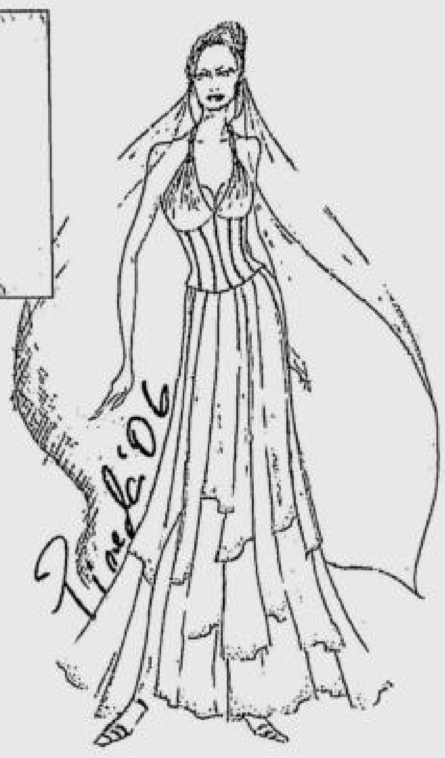
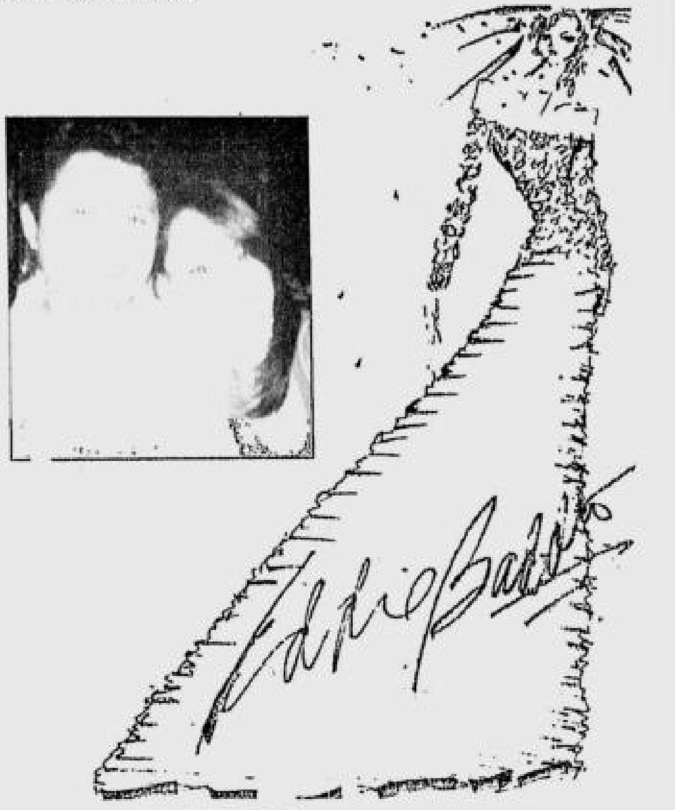




HENDRICKS-MATEO

Mary Laddie Matteo, daughter of **Eddie and Lagrimas Matteo**, will exchange wedding vows with **Carwin Hendricks**, son of **Carl Lee** (deceased) and **Ruth Hendricks**, on Feb. 25, on the beachfront of Friday's Resort, Boracay, Aklan. **Eric Pineda** designed the bride's gown with a multilayered paneled skirt in ivory silk chiffon and pebble georgette traced with caviar beads, the corset top is made of balivia silk and twisted chiffon, it has a short veil of double-width illusion tulle.

LAZARO-SILVESTRE

Leo Lazaro, son of **Benjamin and Lilian Lazaro**, will marry **Katherine Silvestre**, daughter of **Danilo** and **Violeta** Jardiel, on Feb. 12, at Christ the King Parish in Greenmeadows, QC. Reception follows at Isla Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La in Ortigas Center. The bride will wear an ecru off-shoulder and empire-cut gown. Bodice has fully beaded Spanish lace and pleated draping A-line skirt is in silk cocoon, designed and executed by **Eddie Baddeo**. Baddeo also made the wedding ensemble in summer colors. Florist **Tony Rodriguez** will provide the flowers and **Eric Maningat** of Studio 546 will do the hair and makeup fo the bride.

MEJIA-VILLAMEJOR

Anthony John V. Mejia, son of lawyer Victor and **Ma. Nila V. Mejia**, will marry **Marjorie Abigail L. Villamejor**, daughter of Dir. **Amancio S.** and **Teresita L. Villamejor**, on Feb. 5, at San Agustin Church, Intramuros. Reception is at Villa Immaculada, Intramuros.

TEJADA-INOCENCIO

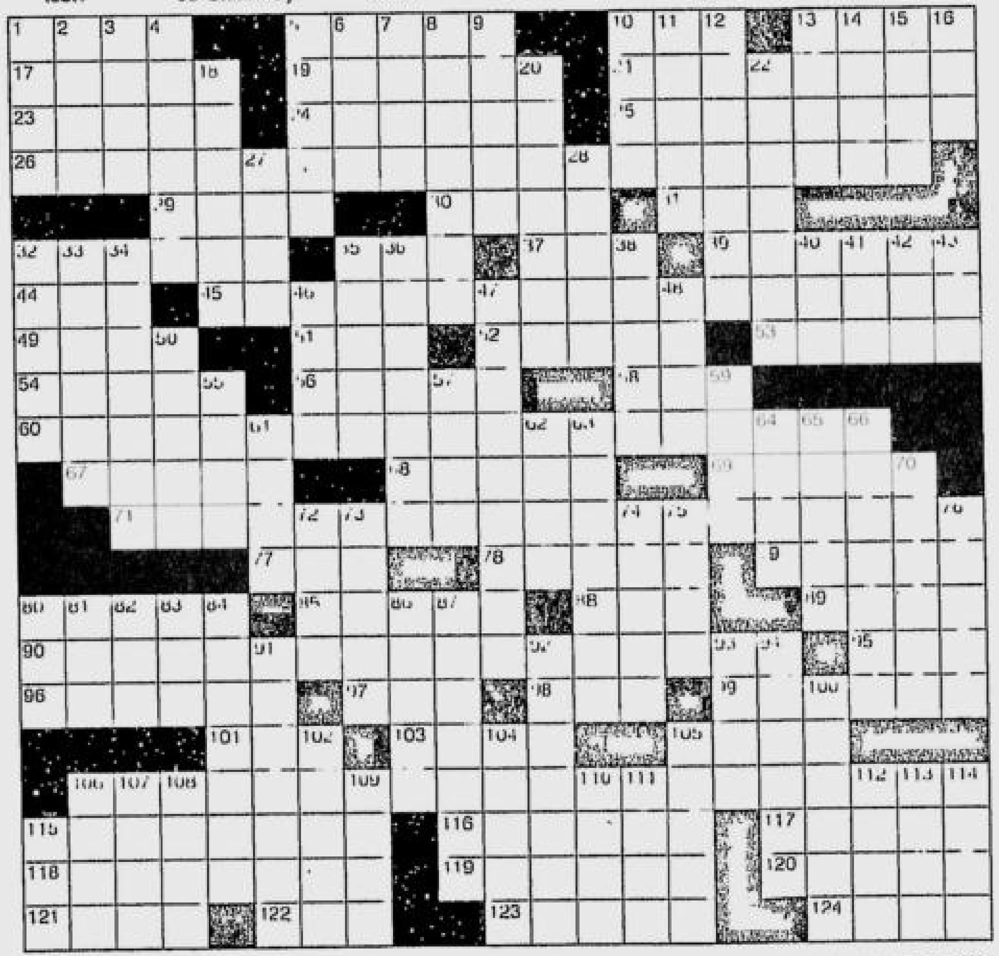
Joefel G. Tejada, son of **Jose G.** and **Felicitas G. Tejada** (deceased), recently married **Fatima F. Inocencio**, daughter of **Gerardo D.** and **Rosalina F. Inocencio**, at San Agustin Church, Intramuros. Reception is at Tamayo' Café, Intramuros.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo TEA FOR TWO

ACROSS
1 Floating ice mass
5 Baa
10 Undivided
13 Engage, as gear teeth
17 "Silas Marner" novelist
19 Wrecked
21 Vault
23 Copy machine company
24 Cause of chaotic weather
25 Weapons caches
26 Guys from northern Italy who deal in pekoe?
29 Fail to name
30 Oodles
31 — Kippur
32 Tavern
35 Now-retired jet
37 — pollol (common folk)
39 In a certain size, as sheets
44 Tyrant Amin
45 Darjeeling brand that won a taste test?
49 Ding- —
51 "Ben- —" (1959 film)
52 Peter and a Wolfe
53 Aquatic barkers
54 — Gay (WWII B-29)
56 Bent fastening bar
58 Showman Ziegfeld
60 Vehicles specially designed to transport Earl Grey?
67 Old Toyota
68 Additional
69 Violin kin
71 Spilling chai and burning yourself versus getting stained teeth?
77 Rock band equipment
78 Starving
79 Balance-sheet entry
80 Kitty remarks
85 Waterproof covers
88 Memphis-Nashville dir.
89 Sail away
90 "You can't do a ballroom dance without drinking oolong"?
95 "Maude" star Arthur
96 It makes a feline frisky
97 John Hancock: Abbr.
98 '60s war zone
99 Ahead
101 Pro — (for the time being)
103 Aspiration
105 "The King —"
106 Combine souchong with tisane?
115 Using a kayak
116 Person degrading
117 "Five-alarm" dish
118 Subaquatic
119 Great scholar
120 Actor Costner
121 Psyche sections
122 Six-pt. scores
123 Gossipy lady
124 Enjoy a book

DOWN
1 Ernie's pal
2 Author Wiesel
3 Costa —
4 Bit of baby talk
5 QB Favre
6 Quiet period
7 Augsburg article
8 Enliven
9 Doctrine
10 Royal Norse name
11 Brashly insolent
12 Subside
13 The "M" of MSG
14 Bayh or Hunter
15 Ward of "Sisters"
16 Day divs.
18 "Godfather" group
20 Amanda of "L.A. Law"
22 Allows
27 Three trios
28 "Time is - side"
32 Less popular half of a 45
33 Gorgeous guy
34 Design mounted on a block of wood
35 Paycheck pieces
36 Disco lights
38 "Knock —!" ("Quit that!")
40 Common article
41 With 61-Down, refrain syllables
42 Scaleless slitherer
43 — Moines, IA
46 Elisabeth of "Leaving Las Vegas"
47 Against monopolies
48 Norwegian port
50 Ancient Egyptian symbol
55 Lot division
57 Poshness
59 Two-tone whale
61 See 41-Down
62 "Dianetics" author — Hubbard
63 Shiny fabric
64 Irate, with "off"
65 North Pole workers
66 He said "Open, sesame!"
70 Stone the director
72 CPR pros
73 Little fights
74 Brunch time, perhaps
75 Genesis garden
76 Ending for home or bed
80 Karaoke need, briefly
81 LAX abbr.
82 Hall-of-Fame Giant Mel
83 Pale
84 Glide lightly
86 Rule
87 Chinese shrines
91 Certain fencer
92 Absent with permission
93 Large musical disk
94 Next to bat
100 Shrivel up
102 Like male lions
104 Cornered
105 Big blood line
106 Twinge
107 Reverse
108 Feet have five
109 "Jumpin' Jack Flash, it's —!"
110 Strong - - ox
111 Wigwam
112 Bee abode
113 Director Kazan
114 Lemon coat
115 Actor's aid



answer on page E3

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128 MB User Memory and
Bluetooth™

D510
1.3 Megapixel Camera,
Expandable Memory (T-Flash),
Bluetooth™/Irda and
MP3 Player

D720
P20,+++
Symbian OS, Expandable
Memory (MMC Micro),
Bluetooth™ and
1.3 Megapixel Camera

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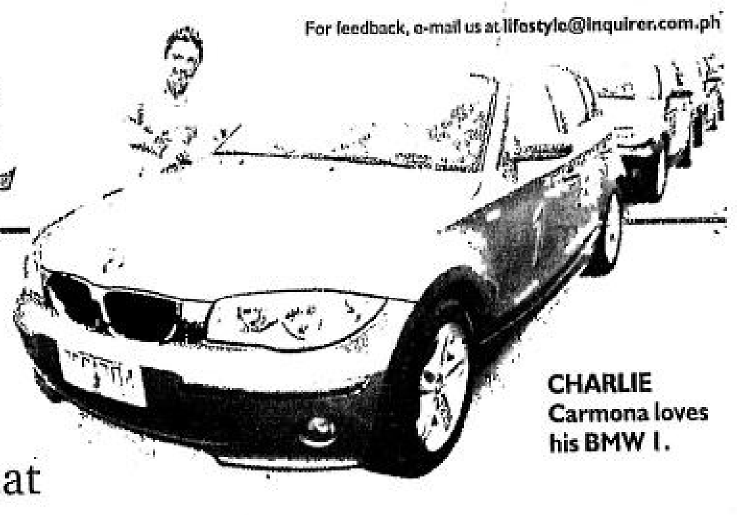
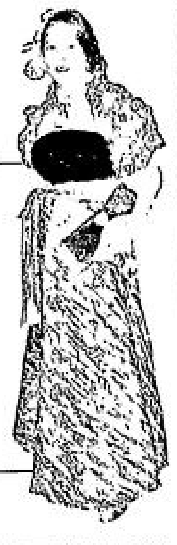


CHARLIE Carmona loves his BMW I.

THE CHOSEN ONES. Gelo Singson, Anton Gonzales, Gutsy Tuason, GP Reyes, Sea Princess, Charlie Carmona, Leica Carpo, Gelo Mañosa and Romina Urra-Gonzales with Carmen

> The BMW 1 Series is a tad too compact for my outfits and wigs. By the time I get my feathers and petticoat inside, I would have occupied the whole rear seat

Take a drive with me



TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

MARKETING IS THE name of the game. The global trend is all about how to generate buzz. This includes directly reaching consumers through cutting-edge promotions or strategically positioning a product to appeal to its niche market. The more aggressively original and innovative the campaign is, the more buzz it will get.

Even with millions of clients out there, business has become more personal and big corporations are seeing the value in individual-centered marketing. Although they still do mass-based advertising, they pay equal attention on how to reach their final consumers.

BMW TEAM. Leana Farrales, GP Reyes, Sony BMG's Roslyn Reyes and MTV's Twinky Lagdameo

BMW is spearheading a kind of "try-marketing" for the introduction of their new BMW 1 Series to the Philippine market. In lieu of the usual car show with Viva Hot Babes parading in front of the cars in their micro-minis, the extremely popular 1 Series launched a new and exclusive motoring circle called Club 1. With the aim of providing personalized driving experience, 10 of these ultra cool, sporty cars are being given for a "drivestyle" seven-day period to selected young, upwardly mobile individuals.

Personally, the BMW 1 Series is a tad too compact for my outfits and wigs. By the time I get my feathers and petticoat inside the car, I would have occupied the whole rear seat. But as a chosen one of the elite BMW circle, I gladly obliged their new corporate communications manager, **Leana Farrales**, and joined the first batch of Club 1 drivers.

After signing all the release forms—also known as the you-better-return-the-car agreement—I got my quick driving instructions for my sparkling grey 118i Sport at the launch cocktail at Embassy Cuisine. It was amazing to see all the 1 Series units all decked out with gigantic logos like Petron Blaze, Samsung, Smart Addict and Sony BMG. My initial reaction was to request to convert seven of the 1 Series for a BMW 7 Series, but I decided not to try that math.

BMW corporate director **Lito German** explained that membership to Club 1 will be limited and interested participants can register online exclusively through www.club1-bmw.com.ph.

Also on this website are stories, adventures and photo galleries of the members.

Since I am constantly with my camera, my blog is more like a photo album where I took shots of the car all over the city (including 168 in Divisoria and Baclaran) and as far as Tagaytay and the new Summit Point golf course in Lipa.

In the end, I added over 500 kilometers of mileage to my car by the time it was returned to Autohaus BMW Libis. I tried to break the record of 600 km, set by some tech guy who was only interested in its maneuverability, acceleration and road handling.

With my petite frame, the car was actually perfect for me once I got the hang of driving it around. From my first stop at the EuroStar carnival right next door to Juan Mi's Grill at The Fort to the last shopping day in Divi with fellow clubber **Leica Carpo**, I found out that the 1 Series is a wonderful car to have in this crowded city.

Hello, love

As a certified shopaholic, I tend to buy products that I have tried, usually thanks to free samples given at launches or if I am given discount coupons. I also believe in supporting the products that are gracious with charitable donations. For instance, I prefer buying my design books and magazines at PowerBooks because they have been so generous with sponsoring

TAKE/ D2

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*Hong Kong Wetland Park will open in 2006. Ngong Ping 360 will open mid-2006.

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SEATTLE'S Best's Bernadine Siy and Frances Lim

NOKIA head Parikshit Bhasin and lovely wife Jini

BMW corporate director Lito German and fun wife Ditas

CATS owner Felix Ang and wife Grace

FASHION designer/poetry reader Inno Sotto and Nokia lady Luanne Erni

TWO GENERATIONS of Assumption girls. Marilyn Pardo and daughter Dianne Aguilar

Take a drive with me

From page D1

my Assumption charitable projects.

And I use L'Oreal's Kerastase shampoo and their personalized hair products, usually given by **Angelique Villaraza**, who is also a member of BMW's Club 1.

The world is, indeed, getting smaller with the advancement of communications technology. There are just so many options out there but Nokia has been so aggressive with its product promotions that this is still a Nokia country.

In a unique affair to launch the Nokia 7360, 7370 and 7380, the NBC Tent at The Fort was converted into an inspiring and romantic setting with flowing, draped fabric for an intimate, seems-like-it's-never-been-done-before poetry-reading cum launch, all designed by fashion guru **Inno Sotto**.

Arriving late as usual, I thought the fashion show was done and people were just milling around waiting for the raffle. But to everyone's surprise, Inno didn't have a show but read poetry with two other Repertory actors. He told me after the performance that reading to a big audience was more challenging than designing a 50-piece collection.

Luanne Erni of Nokia, they would be hosting the next Inno fashion show in March, so Nokia decided to introduce the phones using this very different concept. It might have been different but it certainly focused more attention on the phones, although I must admit I was also concentrating on the pass-around food created by sexy food expert **Margarita Fores**.

It was also my type of party because there were so many cute accessory giveaways. I came home with crystal bracelets and cellphone charms.

I was hoping to win in the raffle but no luck this time. Luckily, hubby **Dennis** got a new Nokia N90 courtesy of his telco.

Astrology-wise

I'm still on a *feng shui* high, what with all the festivities of the New Year of the Fire Dog, so all my recent parties are Chinese-inspired.

In preparation for my Assumption Velada this October, our Assumption batch '81, all born in the Year of the Rabbit, hosted a *merienda* with the "golden girls" of batch '56, who are mostly Dragons.

After attending the informative talk by *feng shui* expert **Arthur Kho** (e-mail arthurkho@gmail. com), I learned that although the animal signs have generally similar fortunes, everyone has a different chart based on their date and time of birth. For this year, most Rabbits are going to have a better year financially and this is also a great year to get married.

In contrast, it is not an auspicious year for Dragons, so protection amulets should be used. But with all the charitable work we are all doing, I hope all of us, regardless of animal sign, will have a wonderful year ahead!

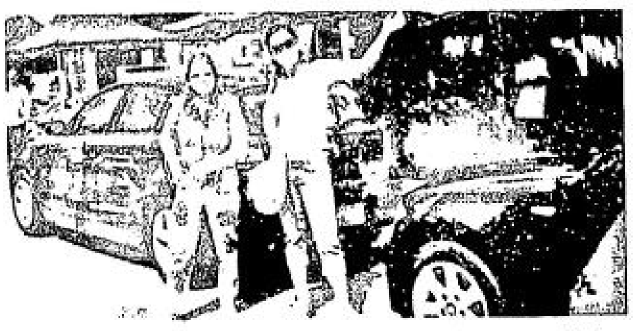
E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

SUMMIT Point golfers Dennis Valdes, Eric Tensuan, Paul Chuatico, Robert Trent Jones Jr., Joey Benedicto and Anton Lacson

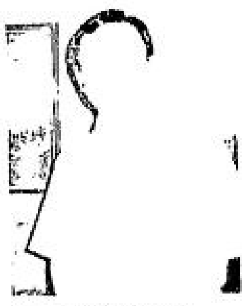
CLIFFHOUSE Tagaytay gang. Chef Paul Huang, Jennifer Dee, Mila and Sen. Frank Drilon, and Domicillo's Rene Alcala

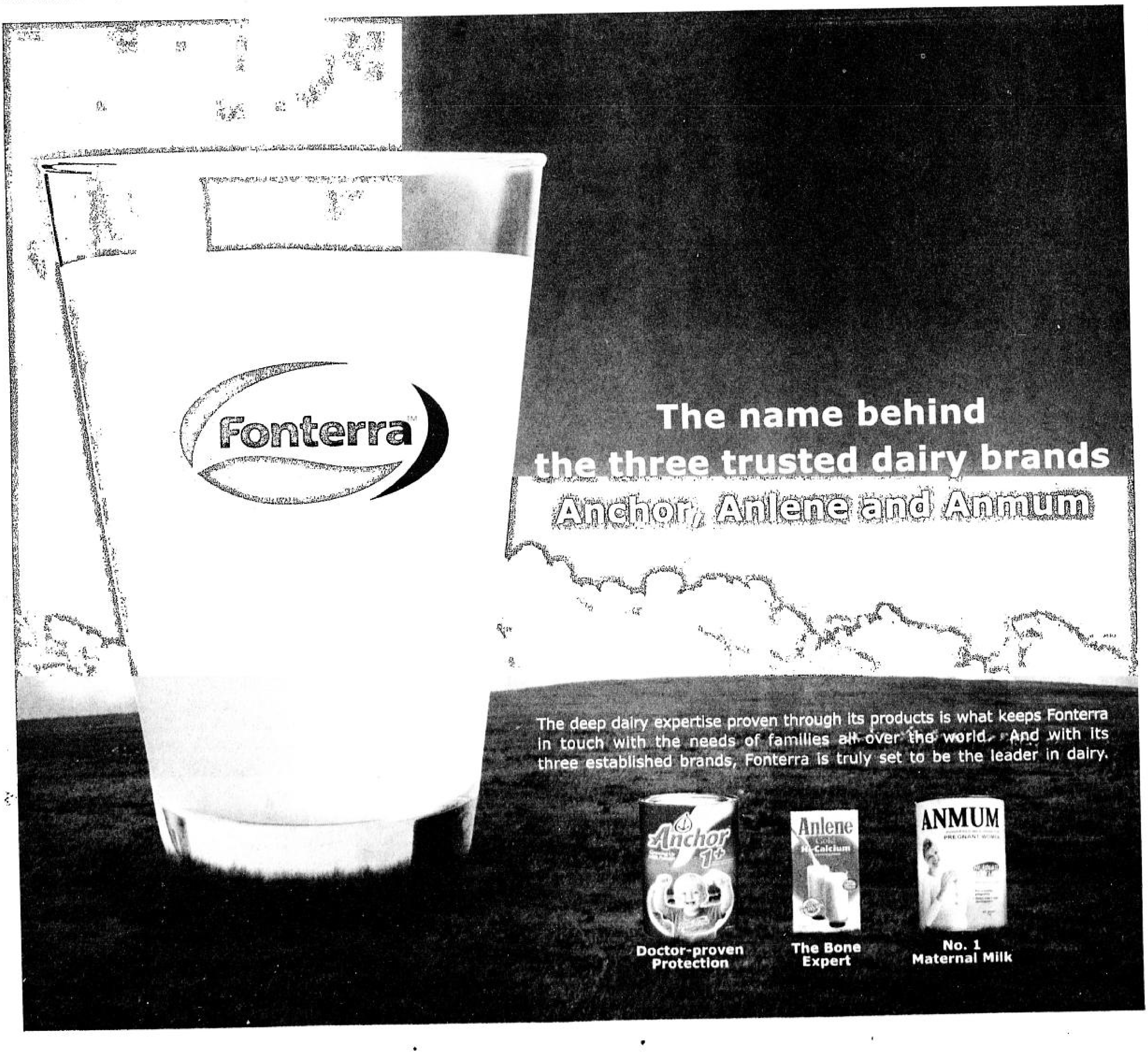
ASSUMPTION Golden Batch '56 and Silver Batch '81 at a cocktail party

COOL Nokia and Shu Uemura girls Cristina Trinidad, Tina Tinio, Anabelle Co and Tessa Dragon


DIVI shopping with BMW 1 Series: Sea Princess and Leica

LUCKY friends Lucille Locsin, Norma Carlos, Mary de Leon and Mons Tantoco


Feng shui expert Arthur Kho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Love has made him a wanted man

DEAR EMILY,

My father has been a widower for almost two years now. The problem is he got involved with a married woman in our barrio.

Now her family is suing them both for adultery. They even sought a warrant for my father's arrest.

All my life I've not heard of a single man going to jail for adultery. My understanding is, in this case, the woman is the only one committing adultery, not my father.

At the moment, they are hiding somewhere far away from our province. My father loves this woman but I know their relationship is very wrong.

Her family said they could forgive her, but not my father. They would put him in jail if he tried to return to our barrio.

What is the law on this?

MISS COSTALES

Funny how some of us not familiar with the law assume that being single exempts us from being called an adulterer.

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

According to a legal consultant, adultery is considered a consensual crime. This means it can be committed only with the cooperation or participation of another party.

What is interesting, however, is that only a woman can be held liable for adultery, as the offense is defined as having sex with a man other than the legitimate husband.

Your father, having fallen in love with and having an affair with a married woman, is considered a co-principal in the commission of the crime of adultery.

But, from a kibitzer's point of view, certain questions have to be asked for a more balanced picture, though the issue might be moot and academic at this stage.

How did the problem get to be this big? What is the woman's relationship with her legitimate husband? Was your father the homewrecker, or was there already trouble even before he got into the picture?

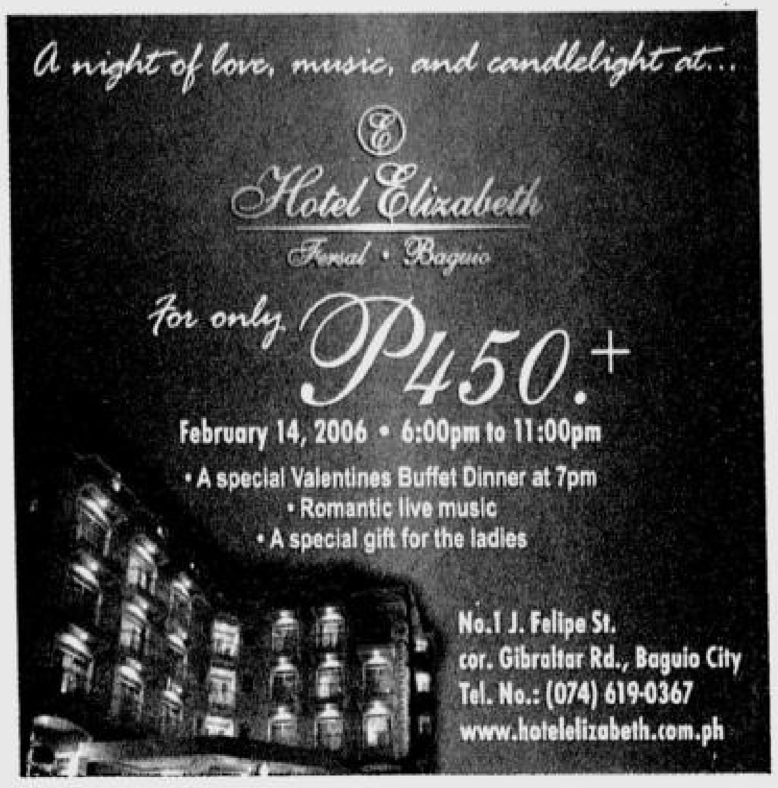
Most importantly, is there a lot of money involved in this brouhaha if a legal separation is granted?

There are no definitive blacks and whites in cases like this. Sometimes it just takes the proverbial "feather" to break a marriage. But that is neither here nor there anymore.

I can't believe the legal upheaval your father's affair has created in your barrio at this age of tolerance and prevailing nonchalance! It just shows that no matter how much sexual permissiveness is rammed down our throats on cable, television, or Internet that reach even far-out places like your barrio, the ingrained mores of a people never keep in step with the supposed "prevailing" mood.

Your letter left a lot of questions unanswered. Nevertheless, besides zipping up his pants till the storm blows over, your father

LOVE/ D4



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Celebrating the Chinese New Year with SMART Infinity and Anvil

What better way for SMART Infinity to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year than in the company of some of their most valued friends and clients, who also happen to be the young and promising leaders of the Chinese business community. At the Anvil Business Club in Greenhills, San Juan, SMART Infinity joined in the revelries at the elegant dinner reception for the business communities' movers and shakers. The evening's festivities included an elaborate fireworks display, modern Asian pop music and the "Awakening of the Dragon" ceremony led by none other than Vilma Santos Recto, who is on her final term as Lipa City Mayor.

This ancient ceremony is usually conducted by a Taoist monk and its purpose is to cleanse and bless the nation, as well as bestowing the strength of the dragon on the

Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto is presented with a plaque of appreciation by EVP Roy Chua, Anvil President Wilson Lee Flores, and Chairman George Sly

Charlton Ng, Bobby Sy, Michael Tan, Bernard Go, Daniel Ching, Eduardo Cobankiat, Jeffrey Cobankiat, Kenneth Hung, Wilson Lee Flores, Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto, Roy Chua, Warren So, George Sly, William Ang Villanueva, Ronald Alan Ko, Victor Tan, Wilfred Co, David Chua and Barnaby Chong

Since its establishment in 1991, dignitaries who have spoken at the prestigious monthly "Anvil Exchange Forum" include former President Corazon C. Aquino and other Philippine Presidents as well as top tycoons. Last year, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo hosted the induction ceremony of Anvil officers in July 2005 at MalacaÒ an Palace with 158 diplomats, tycoons and Anvil members present. Other special guests who have graced the Anvil Business Club include business leaders like John Gokongwei, Jr., Lucio Tan, Taiwan's Acer founder Stan Shih and other achievers.

In December 2004, the annual Anvil Christmas dinner reception was cancelled by its present leaders in order to donate funds to victims of the Quezon province flood disaster through Philippine National Red Cross led by Chairman Senator Richard Gordon. Then just last December, Anvil leaders again cancelled their Christmas dinner reception to allocate money for a free medical and dental mission to aid 1000 urban families of Marikina City in cooperation with Marikina Mayor Marides Carlos Fernando and the multi-awarded Manila Chinatown Charity Foundation.

SMART Infinity is proud to be associated with a prestigious and humane organization such as Anvil and hopes that the examples they set serve as an inspiration for others to follow suit.

SMART Infinity
Enjoy life's best.

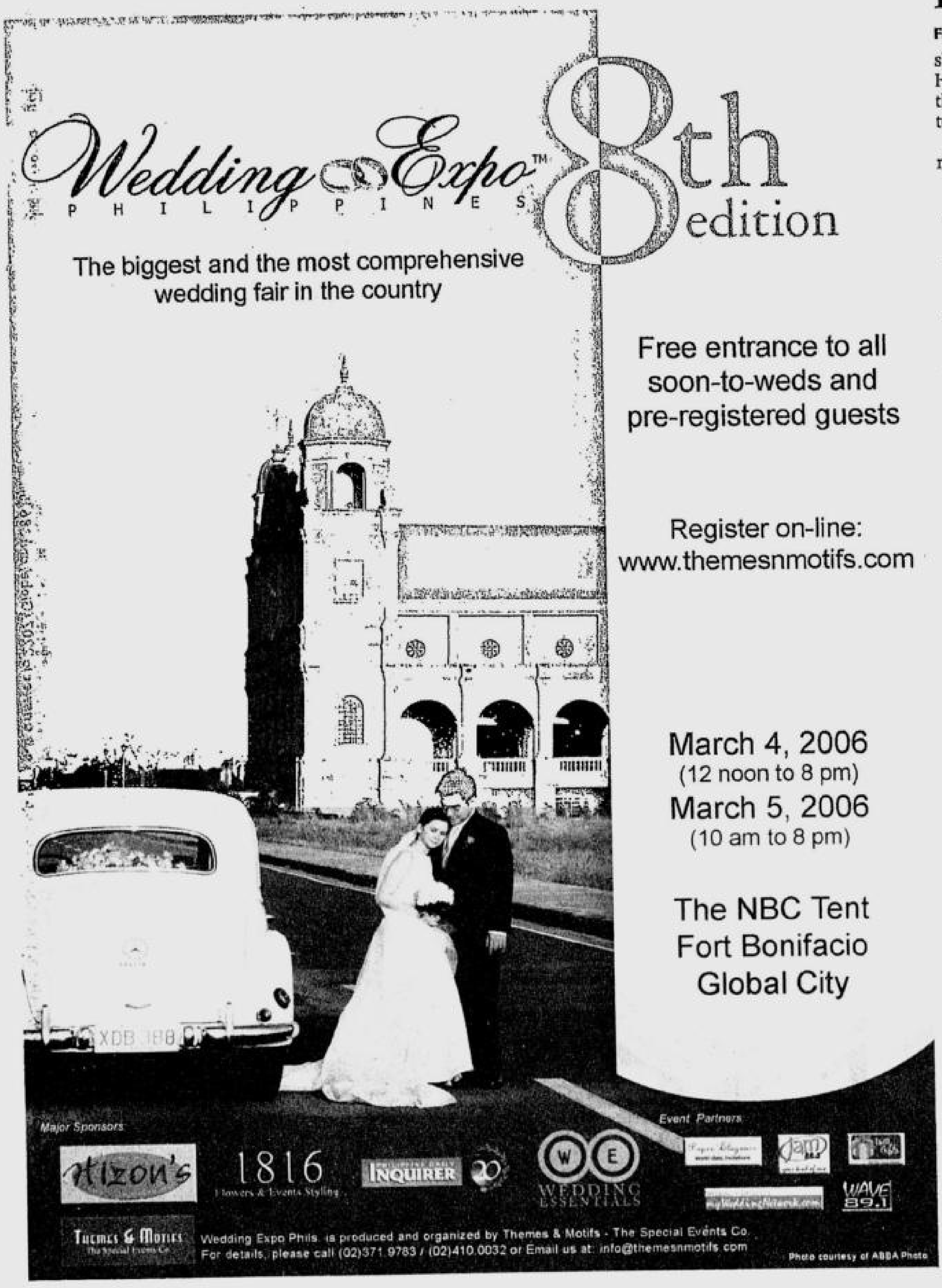
Love has made him a wanted man

From page D3

should consult his own legal eagles as well. He cannot endanger his life or be a fugitive in the name of love, or whatever you may want to call it.

Crimes of passion are committed without rhyme or reason—all the time.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. *Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*



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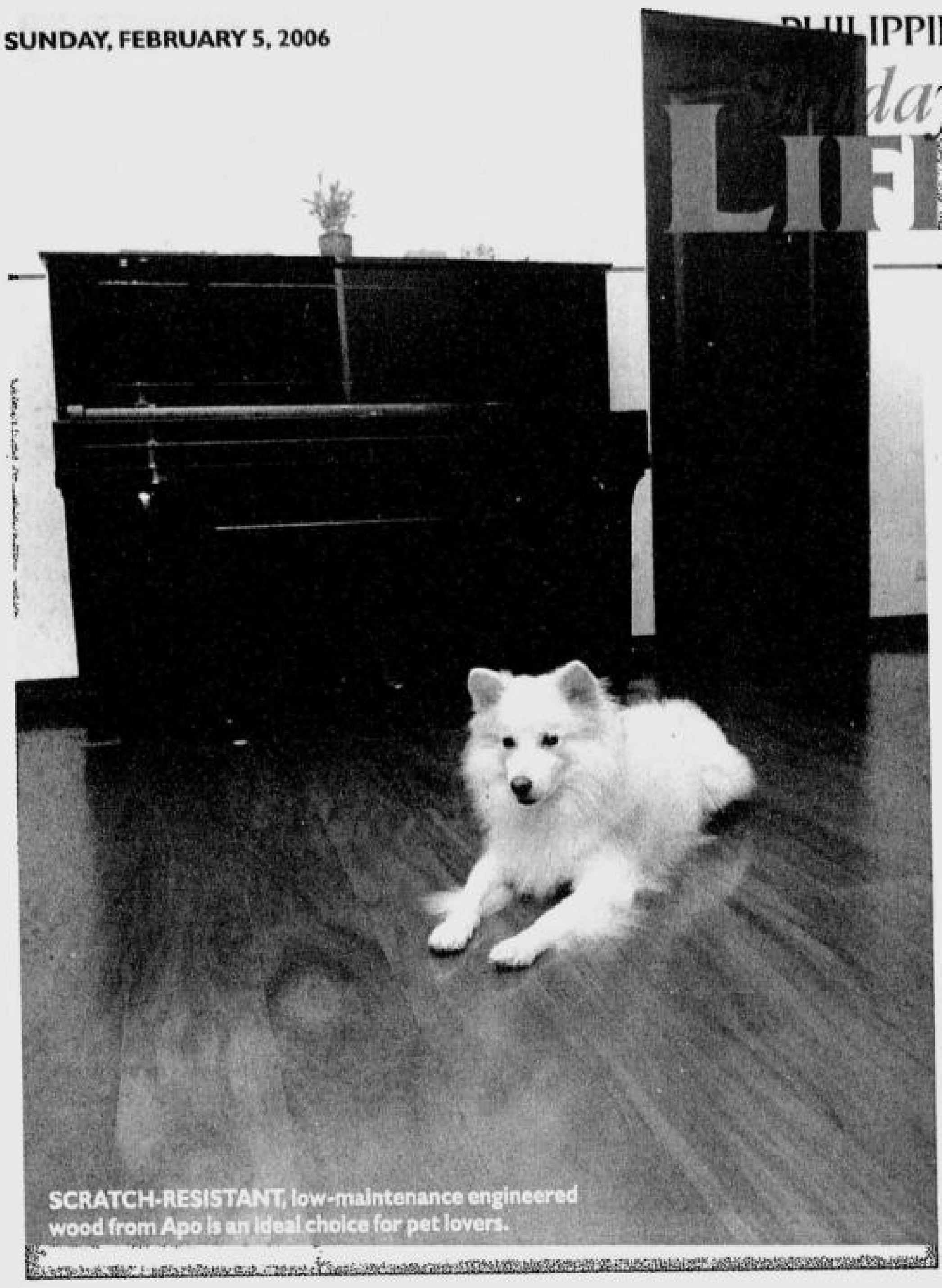

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Floor design will follow the Asian Fusion look

The ground beneath your feet

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Raffy Lerma

AS FAR AS FLOORS GO, VARIOUS SHADES OF brown—from light to dark—will continue to dominate the interior design scene this year. In line with Filipino homeowners' prevailing penchant for the Asian Fusion look, the demand for varnished and wood-veneer floors is also likely to get bigger.

"Asian Fusion is simply a mixture of Balinese, Indonesian, Thai, Filipino and various Asian elements," says architect and interior designer Minette Fajardo, CEO of Inex Design Inc. (6471217 and 4370153). "Filipinos are good at mixing up a lot of things, which often results in something really beautiful."

After having their fill of Zen and Mediterranean-inspired interiors for several years, Filipinos can't seem to have enough of Asian Fusion and Contemporary Asian these days. Speaking of contemporary, the next big thing in interior design is Contemporary Scandinavian, but Fajardo doubts that such a minimalist look will completely catch on in the Philippines.

THE GROUND/ E2

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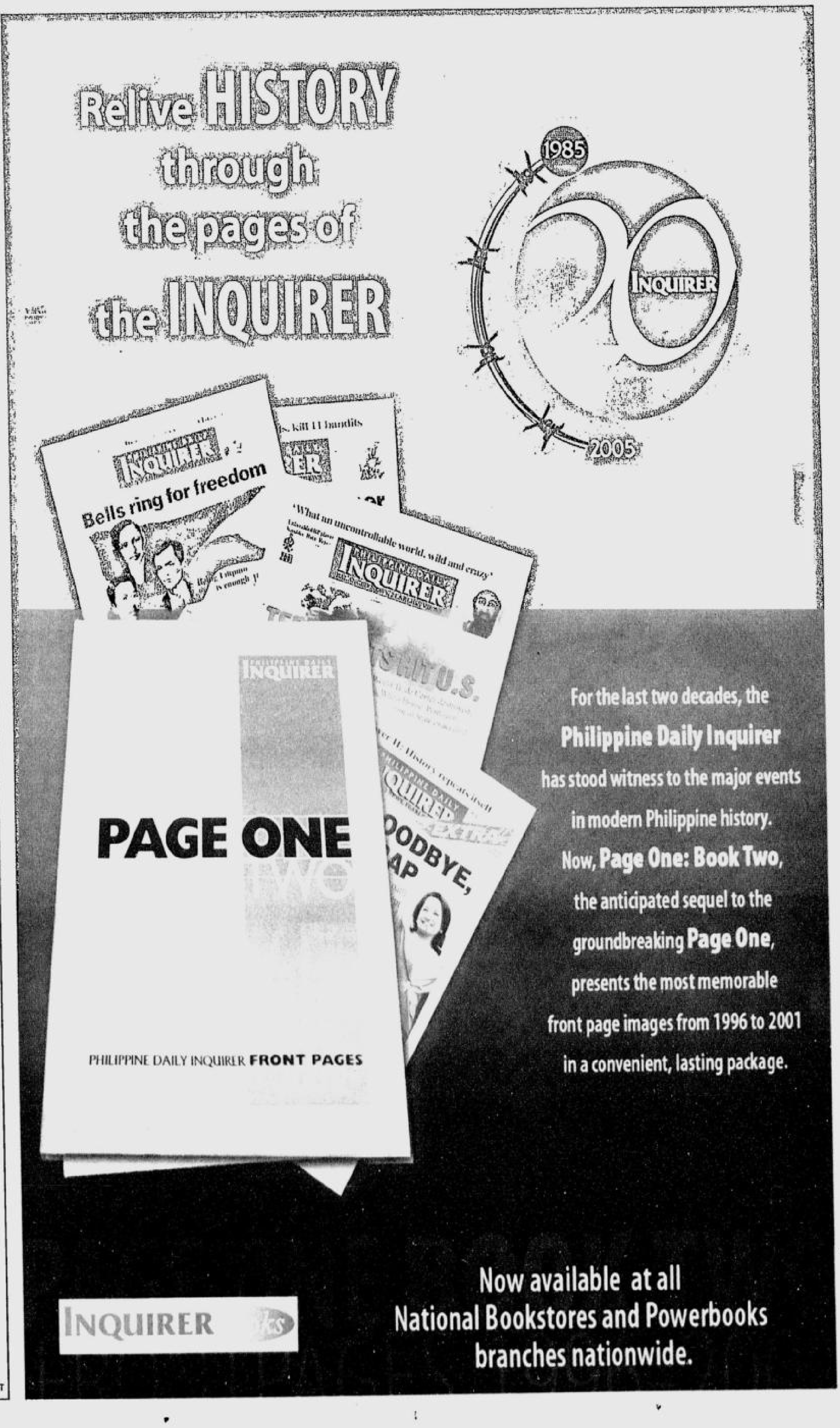

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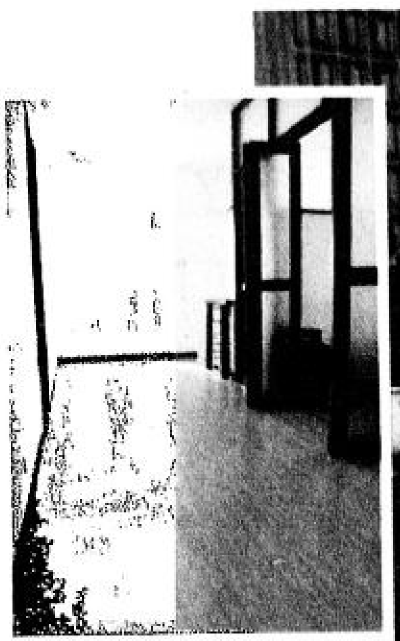

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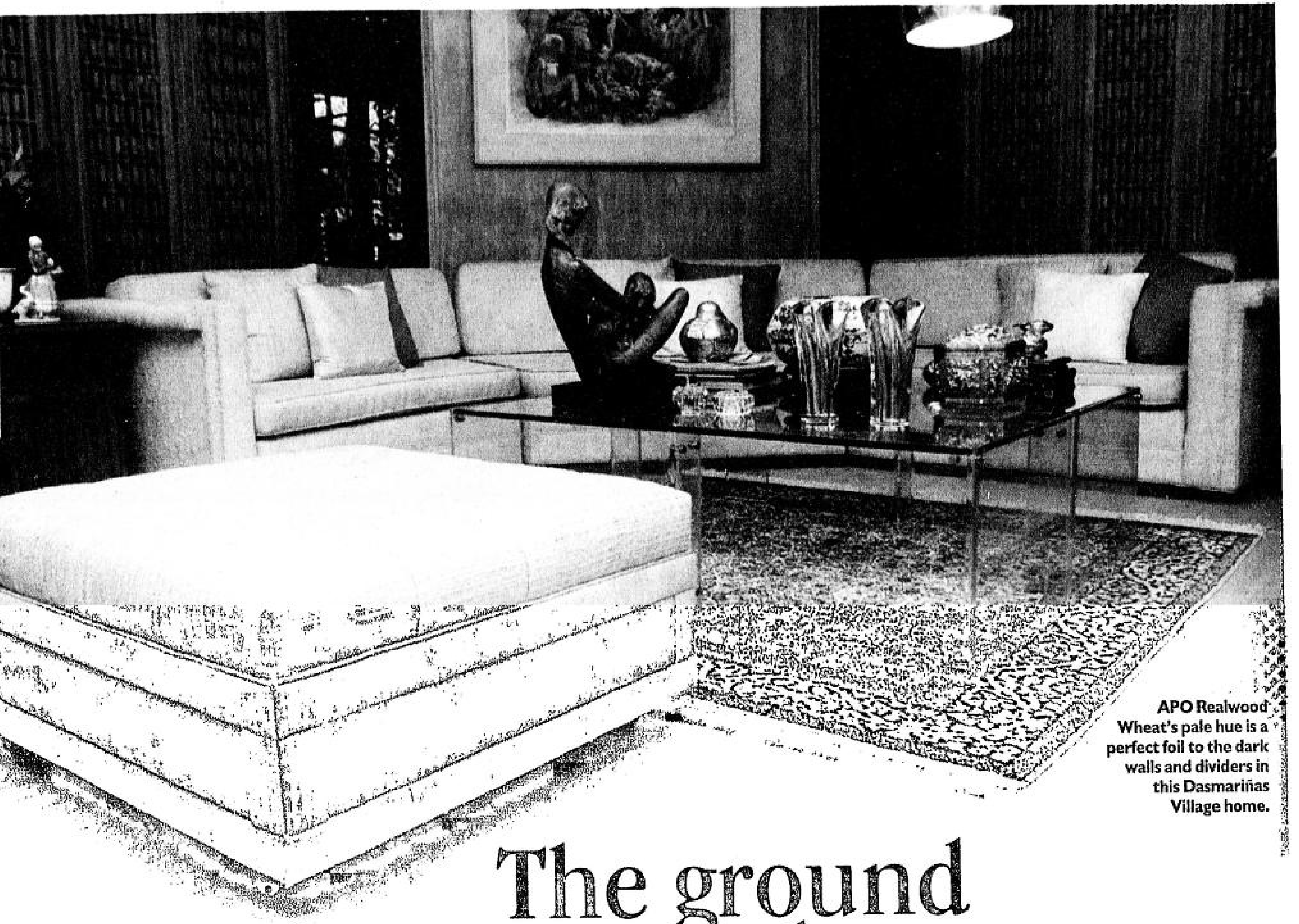
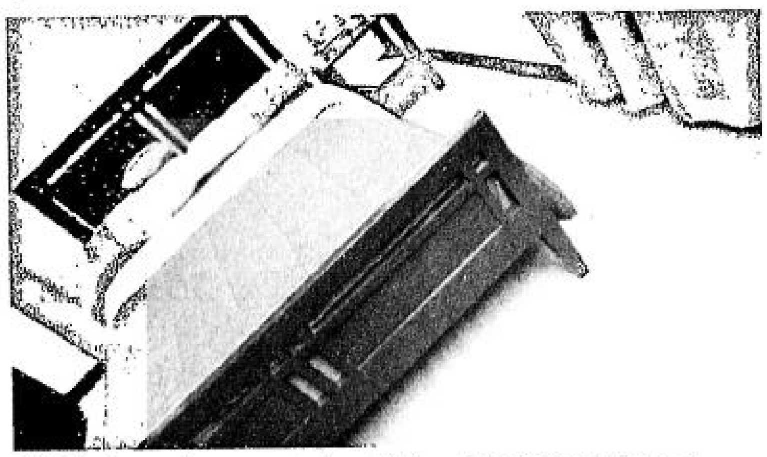


APO Realwood Wheat's pale hue is a perfect foil to the dark walls and dividers in this Dasmariñas Village home.

Whether elaborate or tame, interiors are tied together by floor design

The ground beneath your feet

A HOMEOWNER from Don Antonio Heights opts for Apo Realwood Spice in a dark, warm hue.



THIS bedroom's occupants in an Alabang Hills home go for Apo Realwood Cedona.

From page E1

"With Filipinos," she says, "there will always be some kind of fusion or modification. We will always find ways to make a look uniquely Filipino by injecting it with our own take."

But whether or not one chooses minimalist over elaborate interiors, one of the keys that tie a certain look together is the floor. And one of the best sources of locally manufactured flooring materials is Apo Floors, which Fajardo finds most of the time at par with more expensive imported brands.

"I don't have any particular favorites when it comes to floors," she says. "Most of the time, the choice depends on the client's budget and where he or she intends to use a particular material."

For the kitchen, Fajardo, of course, favors ceramic and other waterproof flooring materials. Bedrooms can use a bit of "warmth" via wooden floors or their laminated equivalents. Proper selection of materials saves owners from costly renovation in the future.

Choosing the right floor won't be a problem, as Apo offers a wide range of floor tiles in various colors, makes and materials. Its top-of-the line vinyl tiles, which can be installed in a matter of hours using a water-based adhesive called Powerbond, are versatile and scratch-resistant.

Versatile

Apo's vinyl tiles are also low-maintenance, which make them popular among busy housewives and working women. Soap, water and a soft mop will do in lieu of floor wax and the trusty *bunot* (coconut husk) or floor polisher. What's more, the company's so-called homogenous tiles come in various thicknesses and have consistent colors from top to bottom.

"One good thing about vinyl tiles is its versatility," says Fajardo. "Through the years, I've learned that you can use the same tiles in different ways. You can create several variations using the same materials."

APO Realwood Spice is designed for high-traffic areas such as this corridor.

Unlike their ceramic counterparts, vinyl tiles can be easily cut and reshaped manually by an expert. Such versatility allows designers to mix and match vinyl tiles in various colors, shapes and patterns.

Apart from the brand's more popular and extensive homogenous vinyl line, the company is also known for its laminated floors. The line has the look of natural marble, granite and stone, but costs much less and is easier to install than the real thing.

If you go for the wood look, Apo also offers a special line of laminated "resilient" wood. The handy variant comes in such warm shades as antique walnut, banister oak, ginger maple, red cherry and a host of other "natural" colors. Laminated wood has reportedly become such a hit in a number of high-end condominiums in Makati and big houses in Ayala Alabang.

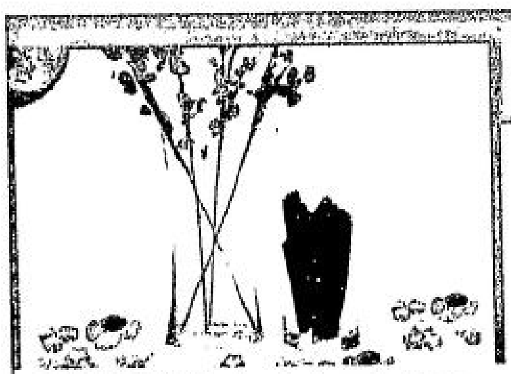
For more discriminating homeowners, Apo has come up with its so-called engineered wood under the brand name Realwood. The material is made of seven sheets of wood laminated together to form one plane. Its makers attest to Realwood's resilience and ability to withstand warpage due to humidity.

"Realwood falls under engineered planks," Fajardo explains. "Planks are fabricated using scrap wood that have been bound together. They put a veneer over it to give it a good finish. There are quite a number of engineered planks in the market, but almost all are imported."

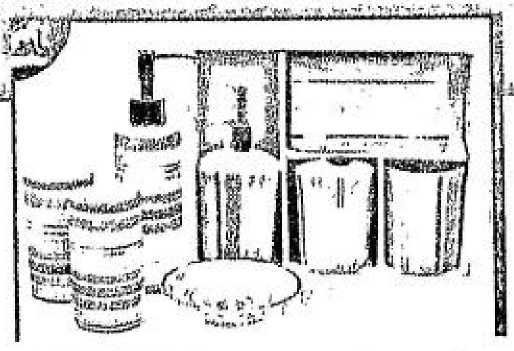
But whatever tiles you go for, be they local or imported, it pays to hire a creative mind to design your floor.

"If they're properly applied, even inexpensive tiles can look expensive," says Fajardo. "You can have the most expensive tiles, but with wrong application and lack of imagination, they'd end up looking cheap."

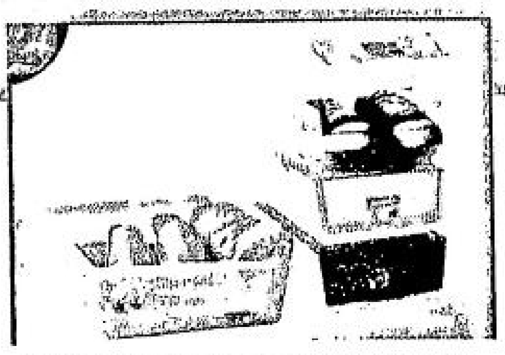
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



DRAGONS will be bowled over by these handmade clear vases.



MATCHING bathroom accessories may be the way to a Dog's heart.



THE SYSTEMATIC Rooster will love every style of these Living Box Organizers.

Shopping list for Year of the Dog

FOR THE YEAR OF THE Fire Dog, Shopwise has plotted a shopping horoscope to help customers decide what to buy.

Rat (1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984)—Adventurous Rats should invest on high-quality picnic gear like sturdy barbecue grills and coolers.

Ox (1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985)—No-nonsense Oxen should go for the essentials of power dressing-executive shirts for men and elegant tops for women.

Tiger (1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986)—Independent-minded Tigers should invest in cotton T-shirts or basic jackets they can customize.

Rabbit (1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987)—Whimsical Rabbits can go for potpourri, decorative bowls and trays, trinket boxes and funky flip flops.

Dragon (1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988)—Classy Dragons can get Oriental-inspired accent pieces, handmade glass vases, and assorted colored stones.

Snake (1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989)—Cosmopolitan Snakes should go for jewelry cases in Chinese silk, cosmetic kits in gold fabrics, as well as chenille and jacquard throws and blankets.

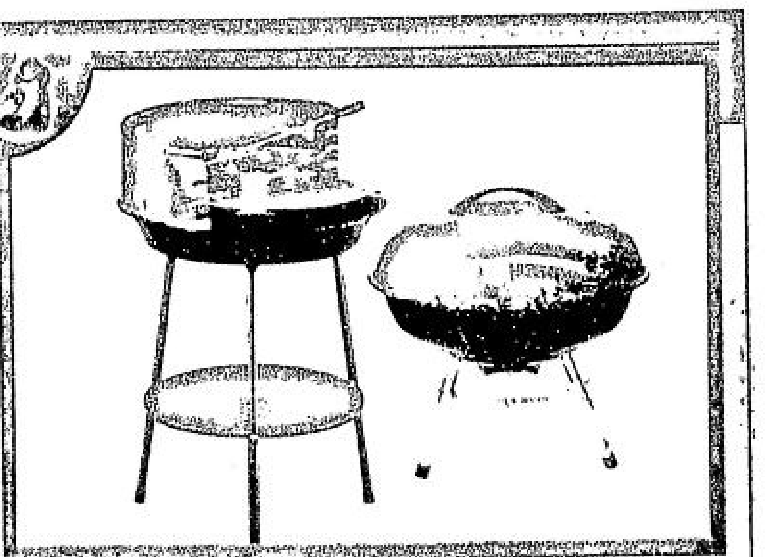
Horse (1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990)—Horses, who live for the moment, may want to hoard chocolates or or get the latest home entertainment system.

Goat (1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991)—Charming Goats can check out keepsakes like stuffed toys for friends and loved ones.

Monkey (1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992)—Sociable Monkeys should stock up on fine wine, party food and appetizing treats.

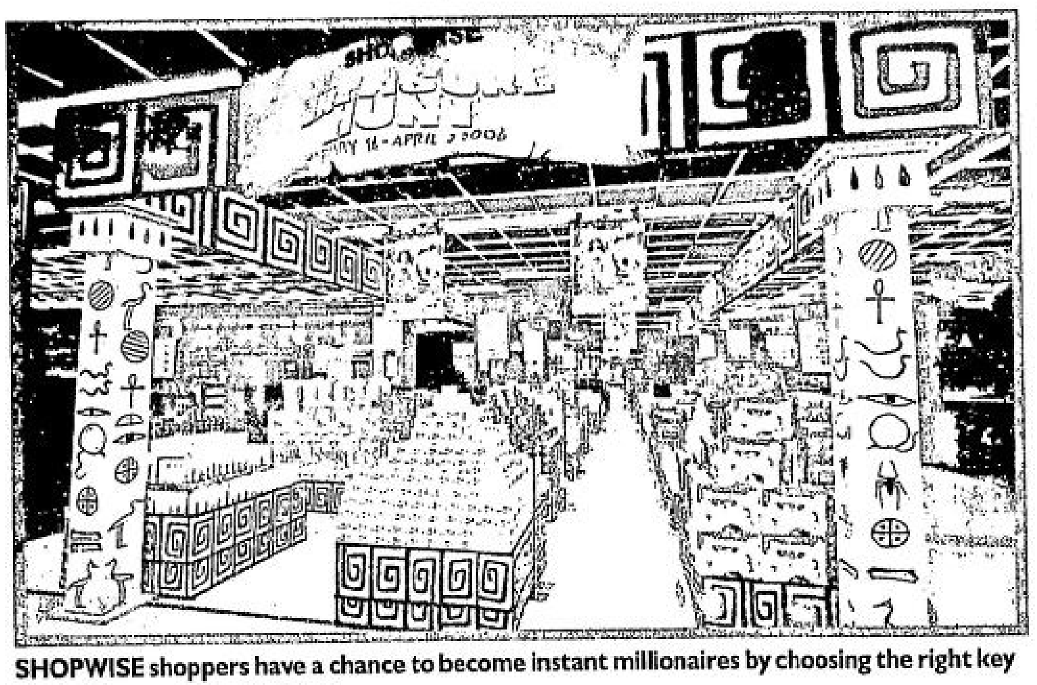
Rooster (1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981,

SHOPPING/ E3



IN LOVE with the outdoors, Rats ought to enjoy cooking al fresco with these sturdy BBQ grills.

Shopping list for Year of the Dog


SHOPWISE
TREASURE HUNT
...RY 14 - APRIL 2 2006

SHOPWISE shoppers have a chance to become instant millionaires by choosing the right key that will open a treasure chest.

From page E2

1993)—Neat Roosters should get box organizers, vacuum cleaners, washing machines and travel irons.

Dog (1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994)—Easygoing Dogs may want to have tablemats with rings and napkins, towel sets, matching bathroom accessories, and color-coordinated picture frames.

Pig (1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995)—Pigs should stock up on scented sprays, comforters, bed sheets, and pillowcases.

All items are available in all Shopwise branches.

Meanwhile, Shopwise shoppers can have an adventure of a lifetime this 2006.

The hypermarket invites customers to go on a Treasure Hunt until April 2.

For a minimum purchase of P400, plus at least P100 worth of products from sponsors at any Shopwise branch, shoppers get the chance to open Shopwise's treasure chest and become instant millionaires by picking the right key from a jar.

The pot money grows every week across all stores.

Shopwise is located at the ground floor of the Harrison Plaza Mall, Manila; M.L. Quezon Avenue cor. Circumferential Road, Antipolo City; ground floor of the Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City; corner of Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Sts. in Makati City; and E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Bagumbayan, Libis, and corner of General Aguinaldo and McArthur Avenues in Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

B	E	R	G	■	■	B	L	E	A	T	■	■	O	N	E	■	M	E	S	H
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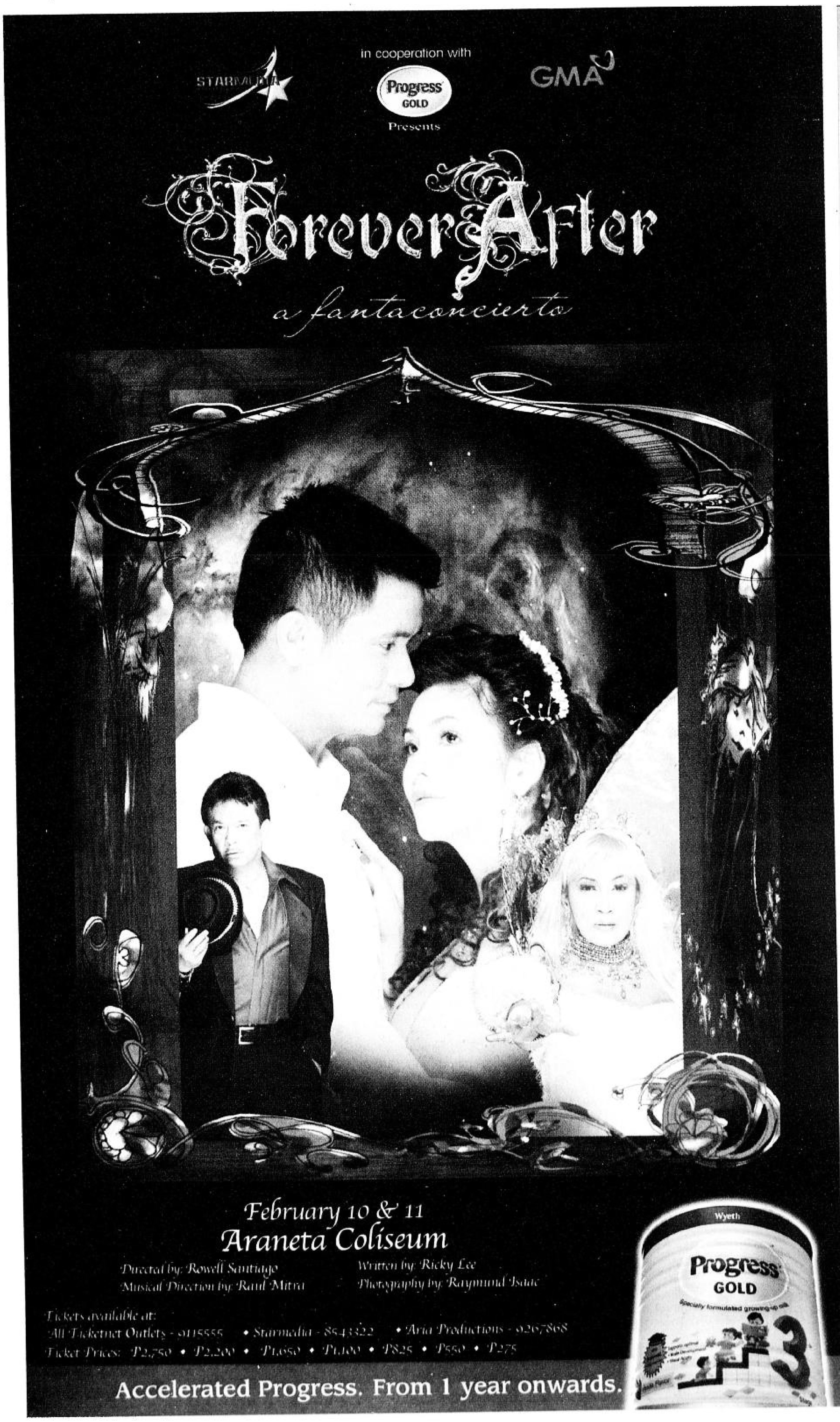
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Wyeth

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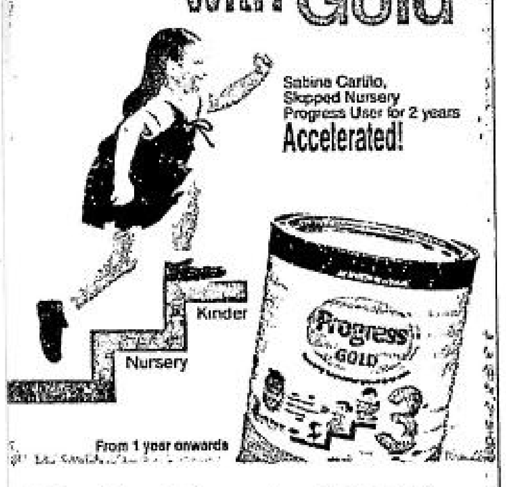
with Gold


Sabina Cariño,
Skipped Nursery
Progress User for 2 years
Accelerated!
Kinder
Nursery
Progress GOLD
3
From 1 year onwards

The Best Care And Nutrition
Help Make
An Accelerated Child

Mrs. Cariño & daughter, Sabine

As a mother, you do your best to help your child excel and be all that he can be. To help accelerate your child's development, make sure he gets the best care and the best nutrition.

Accelerated With The Best Care

Understanding your child's mental and physical needs is the first step to giving him the best possible care. Your child's first 3 years is the crucial stage when his social, emotional, cognitive, physical and language development are stimulated during multisensory experiences.[1]

Here are some things you can do to help stimulate his senses:
- Expose your child to bright colors like red, orange and yellow to stimulate his brain.
- Let your child listen to different kinds of music.
- Allow him to feel his environment through his sense of touch.
- Encourage activities that make use of 2 or more senses like identifying animals and imitating the sounds they make.

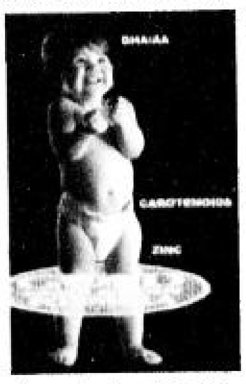
These are some of the things you can do to help accelerate his child's body development:
- Make your child pull toys behind while walking.
- Encourage him to scribble spontaneously and turn knobs and pages to improve hand and finger coordination.
- Let him play games like piggyback rides, rolling on mats, and climbing low-rise steps.

Accelerated With Advanced Nutrition

When your child turns 1, give him the scientifically advanced nutrition of Progress Gold. It is the growing-up milk with the breakthrough Gold Brain and Body Formula – a scientifically advanced blend of essential nutrients that help accelerate learning and visual development, strengthen immunity and promote faster growth.

Among these important nutrients are:
- **Preformed DHA & AA (Docosahexaenoic Acid & Arachidonic Acid)**
  Progress Gold is fortified with balanced levels of DHA & AA which are crucial because an excess of one nutrient affects the synthesis of the other.[2] Studies show children who were nourished with milk rich in Preformed DHA & AA have higher IQ test scores than those who were not given significant amounts of Preformed DHA & AA.[3]

- **Natural Carotenoids**
  Progress Gold is the only milk formula enhanced with the pre-cursors of Vitamin A that help protect cells from oxygen damage.[4] Studies indicate that natural carotenoids help enhance the immune system and protect cells and tissues from the damaging effects of free radicals.
- **Zinc**
  Zinc plays an important role in the formation of protein in the body. It also aids faster formation and maintenance of tissues, thereby helping promote faster growth.


DHA/AA
CAROTENOIDS
ZINC

Show your child how much you love him. Help him become the best he can be, with the best care and the advanced nutrition of Progress Gold.

[1] Gable, Sara. Nature, Nurture and Early Brain Development. May 2004. [2] Carlson SE, Werkman SH, Peeples JM et al. Arachidonic Acid Status Correlates with First Year Growth in Preterm Infants. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 90: 1073-1077. 1993. [3] Horwood LJ, Fergusson DM. Breastfeeding and Later Cognitive and Academic Outcomes. Pediatrics 101(1):1-7. 1998. [4] Guthrie, HA. Introductory Nutrition. 7th Ed. St Louis. Mosby College Publishing. 1983

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"SANCTUARY"

Annual Alabang garden show opens today

THE AYALA ALABANG VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB (AAVGC) will hold its annual garden exhibit starting today until Feb. 12 at the village's park on Narra Street, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

This year's theme is "Gardens of the World Part II." The theme and concept are a continuation of last year's when members of the club formed themselves into groups and did landscapes inspired by countries for their gardens.

Joyce Kato, AAVGC president, said gardens competing this year drew inspiration from Hawaii, Bali, Spain, Jamaica, Philippines, Thailand and Mexico.

Actress and former Miss Universe Gloria Diaz will formally open the exhibit with Rolando Pineda, Ayala Alabang Village barangay chair, and Salvador Arceo, AAV Homeowners' Association president.

A commercial area will showcase new breeds, imported and local species of ornamental and flowering plants from nurseries all over the country. Lectures and demonstrations will be conducted by experts in horticulture on weekends.

Overall chair this year is Ronnie Arbis, AAVGC vice president. Kato said admission to the exhibit is free.

GRAND TOURS of 2006
16-19 Feb:4day-BATANES ISLAND w/ SABTANG IS.
25-26 Feb. "Flower festival"BAGUIO CITY
(Street Dancing & Float Parade)
24-26 Feb: 3day-BANAUE TOUR w/ SAGADA
(Hugao Rice terraces,Caves,Natural Pool,Villages & museums)
3-5 March:3-day BICOL TOUR w/ Donsol, Sorsogon
(Whale watching, Pilgrimage, Mt. Mayon, & Bicol delicacies)
(10)-12 March: 50% OFF ILOCOS TOUR
(w/ VIGAN, BATAC, PAOAY,SARRAT,LAOAG & PAGUDPUD)
HOLY WEEK TOURS are:(1-day VISITA IGLESIA, 4-day GRAND ILOCOS TOUR, 3-day BANAUE TOUR)
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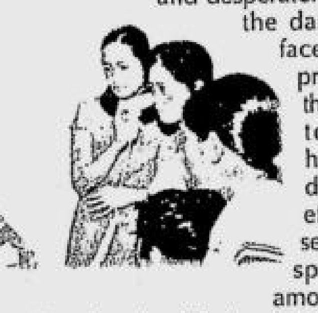
FILIPINAS NATIONWIDE ARE DISCOVERING PEKAS-FREE SKIN IN 8 WEEKS with Pynocare 40 Actisome



There was a time when Filipinas used to suffer in silence from "pekas", a skin disorder clinically known as "melasma". They would look in the mirror everyday and desperately find ways to conceal the dark blemishes on their faces. In their search for a product that would work, they have tried astringents, topical creams and have even consulted dermatologists for an effective treatment. This search not only had them spending an enormous amount of money, time and effort, but also left them frustrated and hopeless with the lack of lasting results.

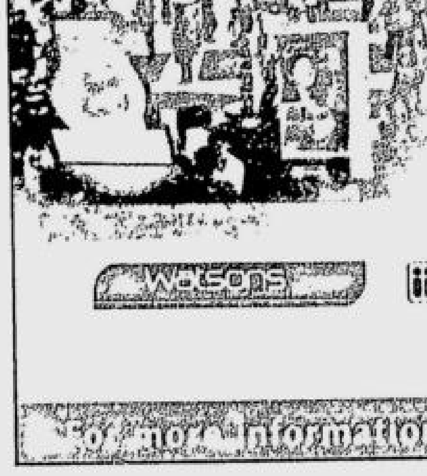
But all of these changed when they discovered Pynocare 40 Actisome. The revolutionary first oral treatment from Mega We Care has changed the lives of women from all over the Philippines by effectively treating melasma or "pekas". With just 2 capsules a day for at least 8 weeks, Pynocare users have witnessed the transformation right before their very eyes!

As part of Mega We Care's initiative to help Filipinas achieve pekas-free skin, the "Pekas-Free Filipina" mall activation tour was launched last year. Starting in Metro Manila, the road show went on to share the good news with women in Cebu and then on to Davao, Batangas and Pampanga, where inquiries were gathered from ladies who wanted more information about the product.

Catch the Pekas-Free Filipina Mall Tour in major malls nationwide:

Robinson's Manila
Level 1- Fountain Area
February 11-16

SM City Cagayan
Ground Floor (Near Atrium)
February 24-March 2



As a result of Mega We Care's commitment to quality service, the successful road show will continue and will soon be visiting malls in other parts of the Philippines. Filipinas from other parts of the archipelago will soon be able to discover for themselves the wonders of pekas-free skin, thanks to Pynocare 40 Actisome's 85% efficacy rate.

Since its launch a year ago, the number of women who continue to use Pynocare keeps growing. And with the way that the Pekas-Free hotline has been receiving praises from callers, there seems to be no limit to the list of satisfied customers.

"Pekas" or melasma

- "Pekas", clinically known as melasma, is an increased pigmentation in sun-exposed areas of the face due to overproduction of melanin in the skin.
- Melasma is a woman's curse: Female:Male Ratio 9:1 (according to International Journal of Dermatology, 2003). It usually develops among middle-aged women.
- Prolonged exposure of the skin to the UV radiation is the major risk factor. Other causative factors are:
  - cosmetics (use of astringents and peeling agents)
  - hormones (due to pregnancy, intake of oral contraceptives and anti-seizure drugs)
  - genetic influence

However, sun exposure remains the strongest risk factor.

Pynocare 40 Actisome's efficiency in treating Melasma is supported by many clinical studies done in Thailand and Malaysia. It contains a unique Melasma Skin Clear Complexion or MSCC complex that effectively lightens the dark spots caused by prolonged sun exposure and helps prevent the recurrence with continued use.

Women like Benita Vinluan, Flordeliza Pamplona, Eva Ducat, and Vicky Batu have nothing but glowing praises that are almost matched by their equally glowing pekas-free faces.

"In just after a week of usage twice a day, I noticed some sensation of tightness and firmness in my face and the dark blotches started to lighten. Even the skin in my arms, neck and my entire body became softer, finer, and firmer, and the freckles on my back and upper arm decreased dramatically."
- **Flordeliza Pamplona**, a 48-year-old housewife, who has been struggling with melasma after a trip to the beach

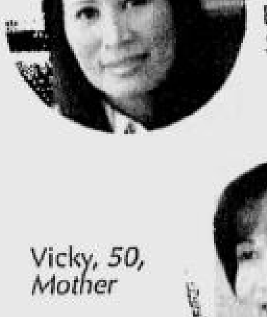
"During the first month, I noticed my skin started to tighten and the dark spots began to fade. I even noticed changes in the texture of my hair!"
- **Benita Vinluan**, a 38-year-old housewife, who has had melasma for years

"It wasn't just on my face. I also started noticing that the color on my arms also started to even out. Friends and family have also started noticing the difference and have complimented me about it, which makes me really happy."
- **Eva Ducat**, a 38-year-old self-employed mother of five, who started seeing results from using Pynocare 40 Actisome in as early as one month

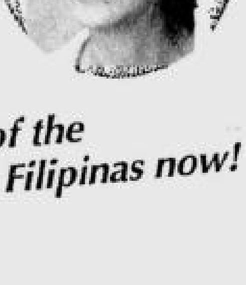
"I have always had dry skin but when I had my skin analyzed recently, it has stabilized and is now considered normal."
- **Vicky Batu**, a 50-year-old widow and mother of two, after using Pynocare 40 Actisome

Flor, 48,
Housewife

Benita, 38,
Housewife



Eva, 38;
Self-employed



Vicky, 50,
Mother

Be one of the
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Just 2 capsules a day for at least 8 weeks, and Be Pekas-Free.

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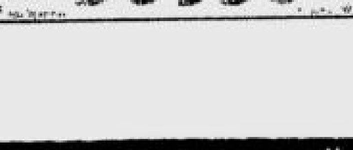
For more information on Pynocare 40 Actisome, call HOTLINE 894-111 • TEXT-LINE 091[illegible]-8274330



Scrapbook-makers fest today

FILSTAR DISTRIBUTORS CORP., MAKERS OF ALL About Scrapbooking products, will host Scrappin' Mania, 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m., today, at Glorietta Activity Center.

Scrapbook hobbyists of all ages can display their works and swap tricks.

A highlight of the event is the Scrap-A-Page competition. Participants will have to create a scrapbook page on the spot, with "Love" as theme.

Canon will print participants' photos for free.

Three lucky winners will win P4,000 worth of National Book Store gift certificates along with All About Scrapbooking, Hallmark Cards and Bic products. They will will also get a 10-minute helicopter ride around Metro Manila. Each will get a P1,000 gift certificate from Happy Feet and dinner for two at InterContinental Manila.

To join the contest, just buy P100 worth of All About Scrapbooking, Hallmark or Bic products at participating National Book Store branches (Glorietta, Greenbelt, Pavillion, Alabang Town Center, Market! Market! and Metropoint).

Show the receipt to a Hallmark merchandiser at the gift-wrapping counter of any participating National Book Store outlet and fill up the registration form. Show the receipt and registration form to enter the contest. The competition will start promptly at 1:30 p.m. today.

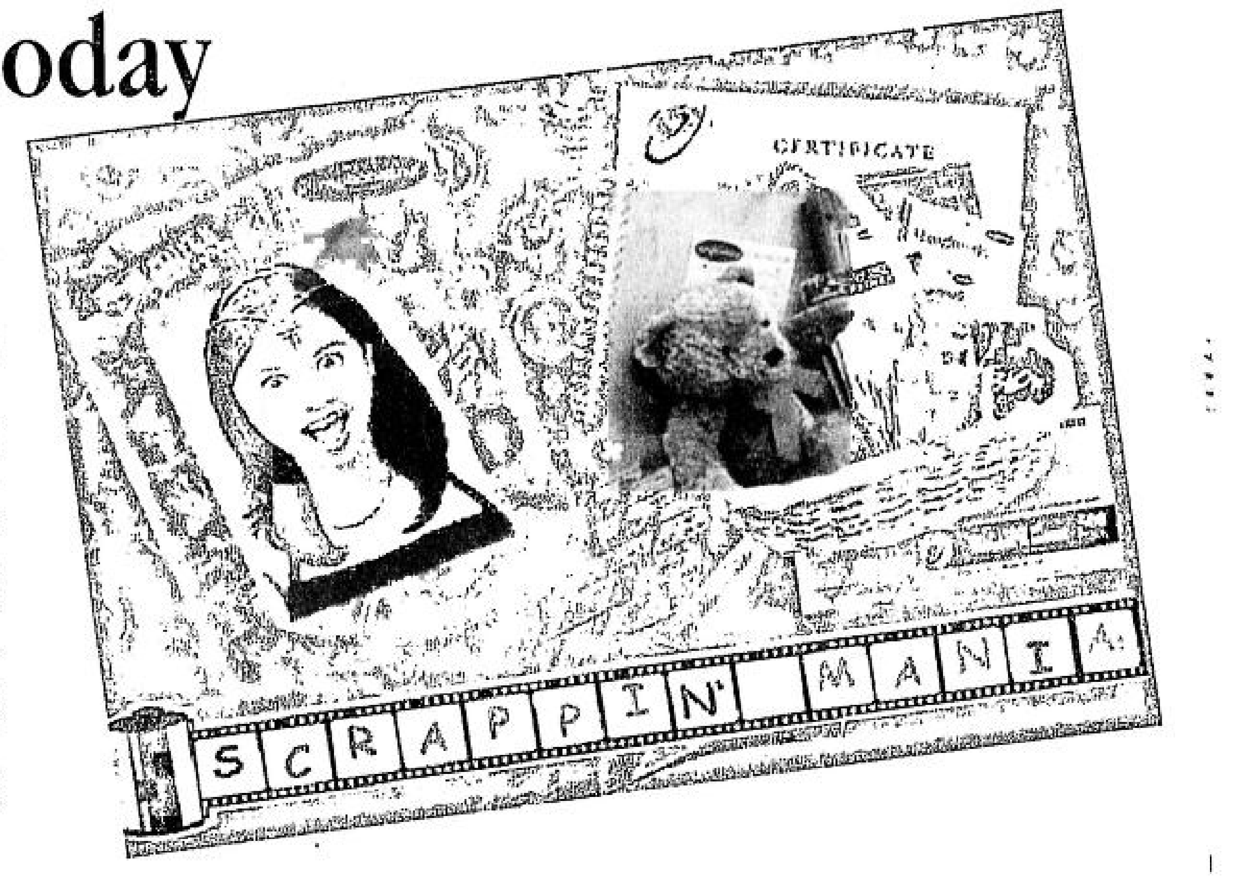
Winners will be announced after the contest.

Prior to the contest, Filstar will conduct a free 30-minute Scrapbooking 101 workshop on the basics of scrapbooking.

Other events lined up are the Scrappin' Showdown competition featuring past winners, special numbers from celebrities, and exhibit of scrapbook pages made by movie/television personalities and past winners. Other features are Joe D' Mango's CD of love songs, "Soul Seduction," and new book—a compilation of stories from his radio show "Love Notes."

Filstar will also launch the Scrappin' Membership Club. Members will get tips and enjoy freebies and discounts on All About Scrapbooking products.

All About Scrapbooking products are exclusively distributed by Filstar Distrubutors Corp. Call 6710555.



SMART 3G WOWS ILOILO AND SHINES IN BORACAY:

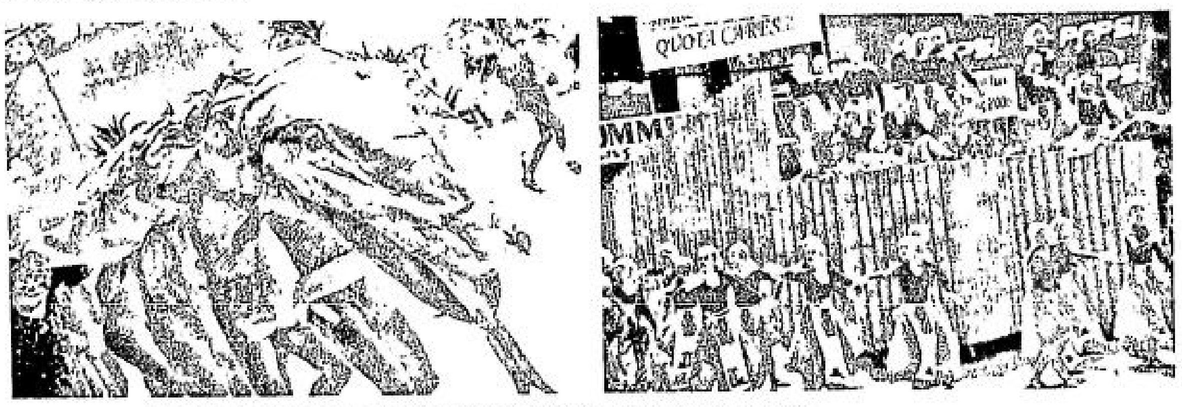
BRINGING TECHNOLOGY AND TRADITION TOGETHER

THE NEXT 3iG THING
Sony Ericsson

Every last Sunday of January, Iloilo City celebrates with a colorful street spectacle its devotion to the Sto. Niño. Known as the Dinagyang festival, this citywide event gives tribute to the christianization of the locals amidst cracking drumbeats and spirited dancing.

As always, the biggest fiesta crowd gathered at the heart of the city where they witnessed the Grand Parade. Representatives of schools and towns organized themselves by tribes as they traversed the city streets playing their lively music and thrilling spectators with well-rehearsed dance steps. Painted in charcoal black and dressed in costumes adorned with indigenous ornaments, these dancers resembled the local ati who were the first settlers of the region. From the packed city streets each tribe made its way to the Freedom Grandstand where they displayed their best performance to the applause of amazed audiences.

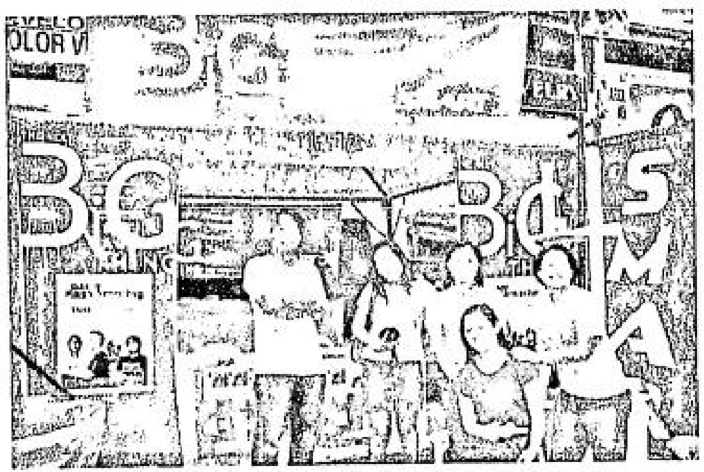
SMART joined this year's Dinagyang as it presented to the fiesta crowd SMART 3G. Billed as the next big thing, SMART 3G will further empower subscribers with more advanced features.


Street dancing as a main attraction for the Dinagyang Festival

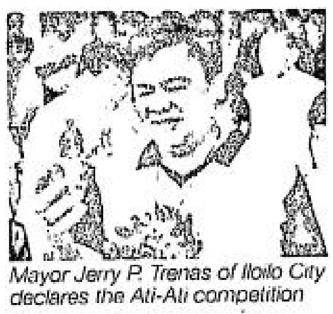
The festival honors the first christianized locals of the region

Demo booths were strategically set-up in areas where guests performed free trials such as person-to-person video calls. This 3G feature connected different fiesta spots like the Freedom Grandstand and the Delgado Food Fair, allowing people to see via a projector what was happening in other places. Local VIPs were also able to try the service. Mayor Jerry Trenas, together with Governor JC Rahman Nava of Guimaras, experienced first-hand the broadened capabilities of SMART 3G. Prominent Iloilo businessmen like Nestor Divinagracia and Edward Dy gave the service a try as well and were impressed by its efficiency and features. Likewise, Iloilo Dinagyang Foundation Inc. President Mr. Lee Chuan was able to sample SMART 3G at the Freedom Grandstand.

As evening descended, the fiesta slowly came to a close with the awarding of the winning tribe for the Kasadyahan and Ati-Ati competition. The crowd that stayed on witnessed the pride and gratitude of the men and women who made this year's Dinagyang a success. SMART 3G has been a part of another exciting festival in honor of Señor Sto. Niño, and it continues its tour of the country, spreading the news that the next big thing in the world of telecommunications is coming.



The SMART 3G booth at the Delgado Food Fair


Mayor Jerry P. Trenas of Iloilo City declares the Ati-Ati competition open

Lee Chuan, Iloilo Dinagyang Foundation President tries out SMART 3G

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SMART 3G

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First Again in the World's Best Beach!

Joy Raymundo watches live footage of Dinagyang

Jimmy Coscolluela samples a video call

Boracay-ready: Clacia Velez experiences SMART 3G in [illegible]

SMART was proud to be the first once more on Boracay's shores in giving islanders and tourists alike their first taste of what is indeed the next big thing in wireless technology. Timed to coincide with the Dinagyang festival in Iloilo, the SMART 3G team combed the white beach and offered free video call demos to interested locals and tourists.

Joy Raymundo, a real estate manager, was first up to encounter the technology as live footage of the Dinagyang festival was beamed from a SMART 3G team member in Iloilo to the SMART 3G-enabled phone in her hand. *"Nakakaaliw!"*, she exclaimed as she watched the festivities through the handset's screen. She then added, "This kind of technology can also be handy in my line of work".

International Media Correspondent Clacia Velez was next to experience live video calling. "The technology is exciting and will connect people even more. 3G makes things ultra-interactive because you can actually see the person you're taking to", she said.

Aaron Milam, a U.S. national based in China, also shared the excitement of the others. "It's the way of the future", he said matter-of-factly.

Le Soleil Resort Manager Jimmy Coscolluela said: "This new technology will be very handy for people who transact a lot of business over the phone. It will simplify things and make communicating more proactive".

SMART was the first to introduce an analog cellular service, and the first to bring GSM to Boracay. This year, SMART is first once more in Boracay with SMART 3G.

Guadalupe-Manaoag churches forge sisterhood agreement

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

OUR FAMILY HAS A SPECIAL DEVOTION TO Our Lady of Manaoag to whom my Lola Marcela Darang prayed when I was sick in 1981-1985. We Ilocanos call her "Apo Baket," meaning old woman. She is said to appear to people in the town of Manaoag.

I was happy to hear from Imee Luzuriaga, mother-in-law of Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, that the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico forged a sisterhood agreement with the Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag in 2005. Philippine Ambassador to Mexico Justo Orros Jr. said the agreement was a brainchild of Speaker Jose de Venecia who proposed the idea to Msgr. Diego Monroy Ponce, vicar general and rector of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Much later, Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, parish priest of Quiapo Church, invited Msgr. Monroy to visit the Philippines. The Philippine Embassy in Mexico arranged visits to Manila, Cebu, Bacolod, Pagsanjan, Vigan and La Union.

Msgr. Monroy donated to Quiapo Church a life-size icon of the Virgin of Guadalupe. It was enthroned on the right side of the main altar.

When Ms Luzuriaga visited Mexico last year, she witnessed the signing of the agreement between Ambassador Orros and Msgr. Monroy. She was accompanied by Sonny Luzuriaga, Romeo and Terry Pison.

The agreement aimed:

To encourage people to visit the shrines in each other's country to promote not only devotion to the Virgin Mary but also to foster mutual understanding and friendship between Filipinos and Mexicans;

To disseminate information on the devotion to the Virgin of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Manaoag in each other's country;

To exchange information, documents and materials on Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Manaoag;

To undertake exchange of visits among Church officials of the shrines as well as lay devotees of the Virgin Mother;

To promote the holding of seminars and conferences on the Marian devotion as well as joint studies and researches.

PHILIPPINE Ambassador Justo Orros Jr. with Msgr. Diego Monroy (seated); Romeo Pison, Terry Pison, Imee Luzuriaga, Sonny Luzuriaga and Jeffrey de Mesa, Philippine Embassy protocol officer

Our Lady in Bohol

The image of Our Lady of Manaoag was enthroned last Sunday at the St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in Tubigon, Bohol.

The Rosary Center of Our Lady of Manaoag in Barrio Corte, Carmen, Cebu, continues to receive pilgrims from all over the Philippines. It is run by the Benedictine Fathers of St. Sylvestrine headed by Fr. Thomas.

Sto. Niño feast

As early as 7 a.m. of Jan. 27, devotees of the Sto. Niño de Providencia started to arrive at Pijuan St. in BF Resort Village, Las Piñas, for the feast day of the Sto. Niño. Judging from the number of sandwiches made, at least 10,000 people came to thank the Child Jesus for favors granted and to ask for healing of their illnesses.

Fr. Pio Lumibao, OSB, Fr. Basil Apostol, Fr. Aloy Maranan of the Benedictine Abbey and Fr. Joseph Sou, chaplain of the Manila Medical Center, anointed people with the holy oil from the body of the image.

Msgr. Philip Ocol of the Mary Mother of the Church Parish concelebrated the Mass. Devotees included Rep. Cynthia Villar, who comes to the Mass every year. Concelebrants were Fr. Romy Mendoza, Fr. Daniel Healy, Fr. Joel Ador, and Fr. Jess Estrada.

The image of Our Lady of Mediatrix of All Grace was brought by the Franciscan Brothers of the Holy Face and joined the procession afterward. People living along the route of the procession brought out their Sto. Niño images and lighted candles.

BF Resort Village had a fiesta atmosphere as the *carroza* of the Sto. Niño passed preceded by the dancing karakul group from Sto. Niño Parish in La Huerta, Parañaque.

Volunteers preparing for the annual fiesta organized themselves into the Miraculous Sto. Niño de Providencia Community headed by Bro. Domingo Par.

Those who want to visit the Sto. Niño Chapel can go to 65 Pijuan St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas.

Pilgrimage

Adam's Express Travel is organizing a 12-day promo tour of the Holy Land March 5. The tour will include Jordan, the land of the prophets, and Egypt, the land of the pharaohs.

Call Adam's Express Travel at 5211638/98 or text 0918-9083676.

St. Nicholas devotion

On Feb. 6, first Monday of the month, devotees of St. Nicholas of Bari will go to San Marcelino Church to pray to the saint and ask for favors like healing and money.

Doña Victoria Pantangco, a devotee for 35 years, has printed novena prayers to the saint for distribution. The efficacy of St. Nicholas' intercession has been proven.

Those who want to have the novena prayer can write to me c/o P.O. Box 2050 Manila and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. The first Monday has a special *caminata* prayer to St. Nicholas of Bari.

Novena and healing

The Blessed Margaret Castelo Movement will hold a novena and healing Mass 5:30 p.m., Feb. 9, Thursday, at the Sto. Domingo Church. Fr. George Moreno, OP, is celebrant.

Blessed Margaret, a hunchback and lame holy woman, was rejected by her parents as a child. She was put in a cell in the forest and left to fend for herself.

Blessed Margaret is the patron of Pro-Life Philippines.

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Two projects benefit elderly

THE SM FOUNDATION LAUNCHED RECENTLY two projects for the elderly as part of its efforts to reach out to the less fortunate.

In Trece Martirez City, Cavite, a center for less-fortunate seniors was opened. It will be a place for self and social enhancement through socialization, recreation, information and livelihood activities.

Guests included Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Trece Martirez Mayor Jun de Sagun, Provincial Federation of Senior Citizens in Cavite president Guillermo Vidamo, District Board member Luming Silao, Provincial Social Welfare and Development OIC Mercedita Reyes, and SM Foundation executive directors Connie Angeles and Linda Atayde.

Earlier, SM Foundation, together with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and DZAS 702, spearheaded the celebration of Elderly Filipino Week at SM City San Lazaro.

The Elderly Filipino Week aimed to promote the rights and well-being of the growing number of older persons in the country. Seniors demonstrated their talents in a series of variety shows.

Various awards were given and among the recipients were Lola Serefina, 91, oldest senior citizen during the event; and Lola Angie Arceo, Best Dressed in her Filipiniana costume.

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JOB Market

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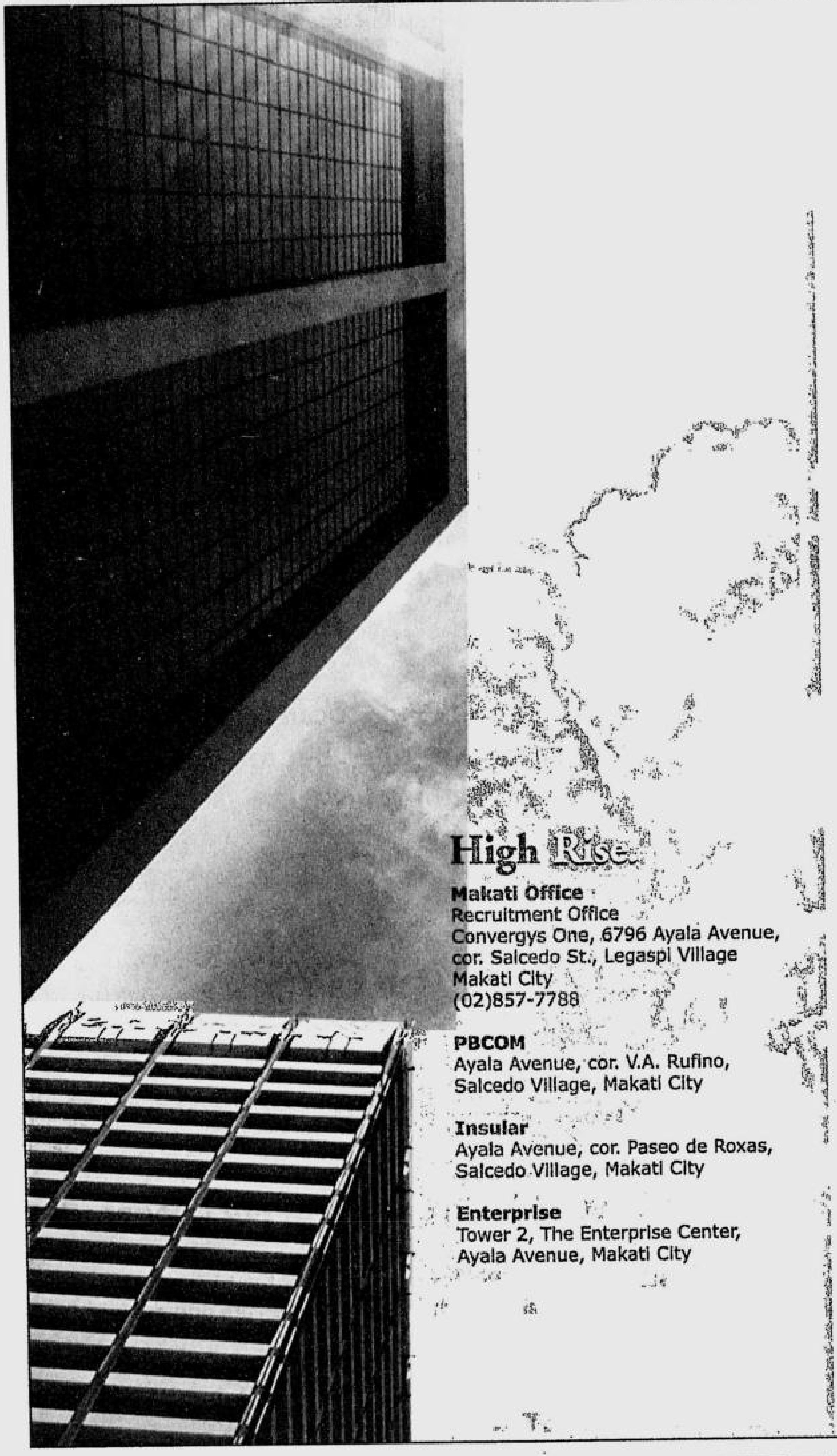

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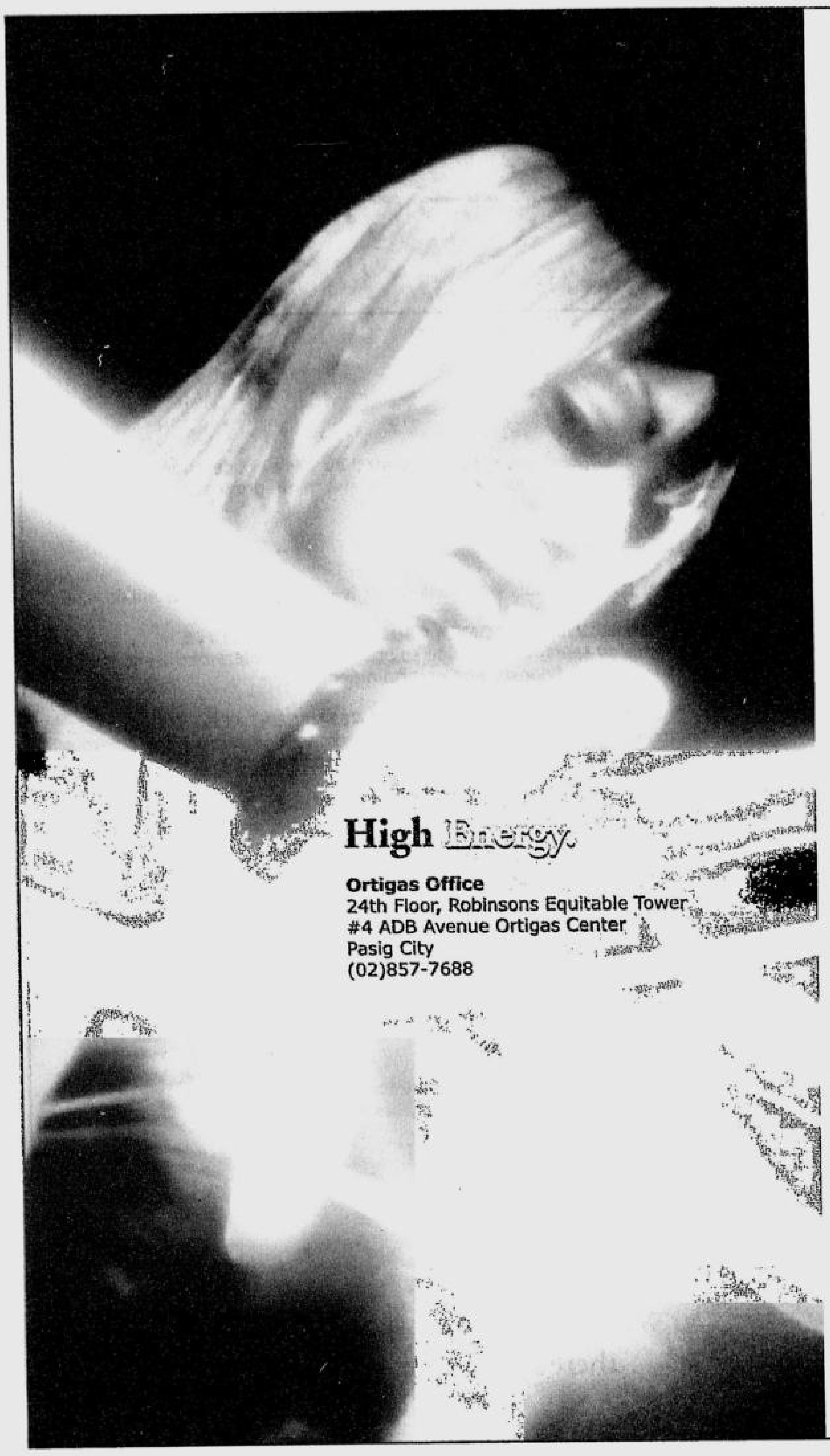

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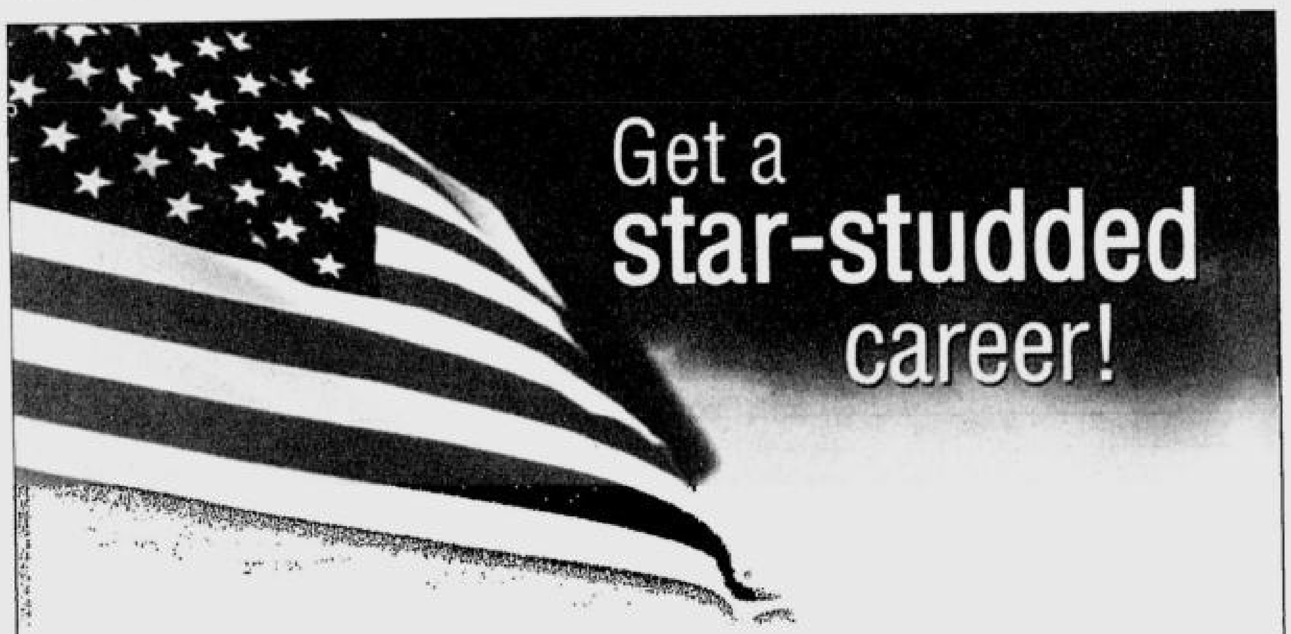

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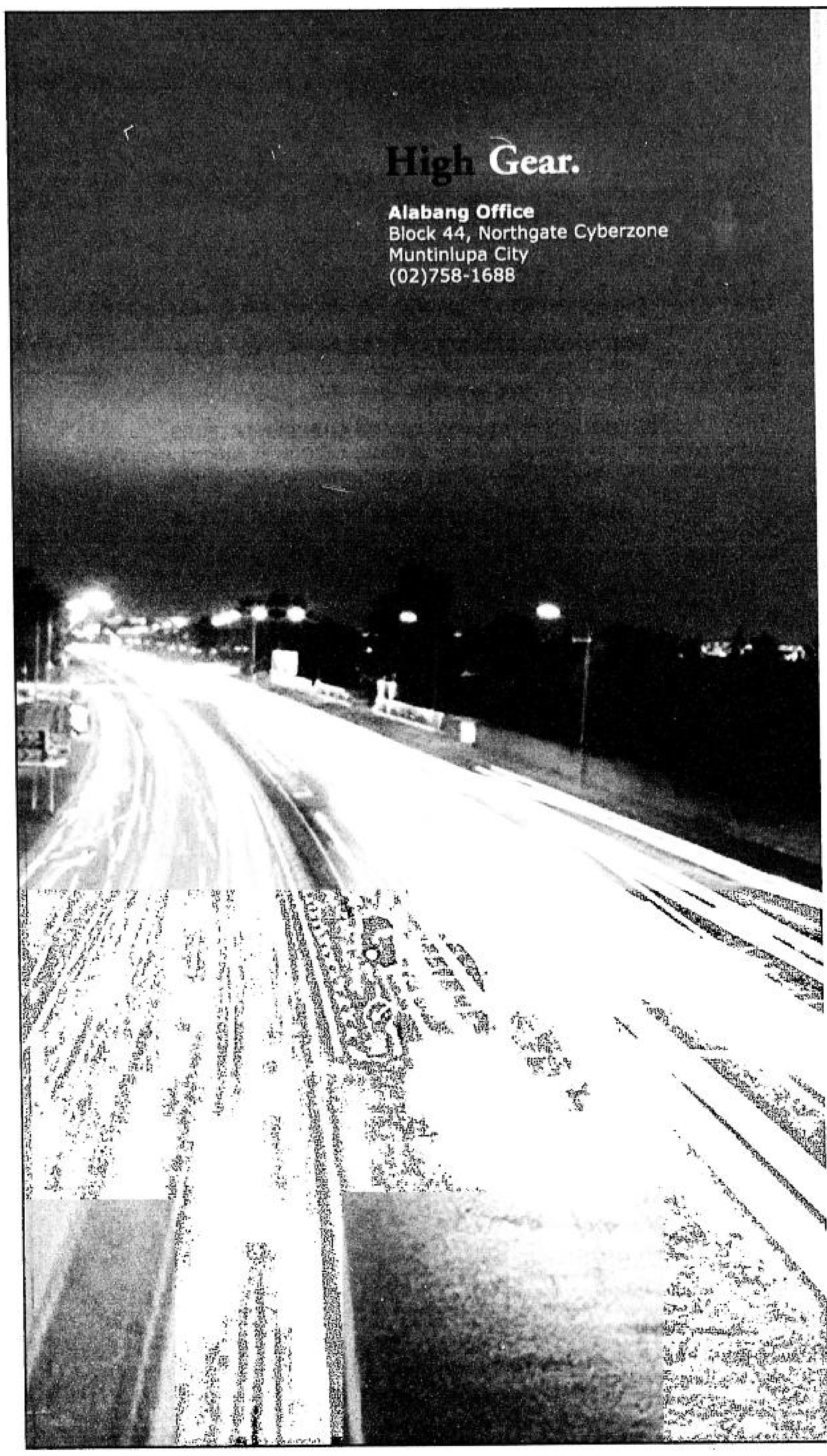

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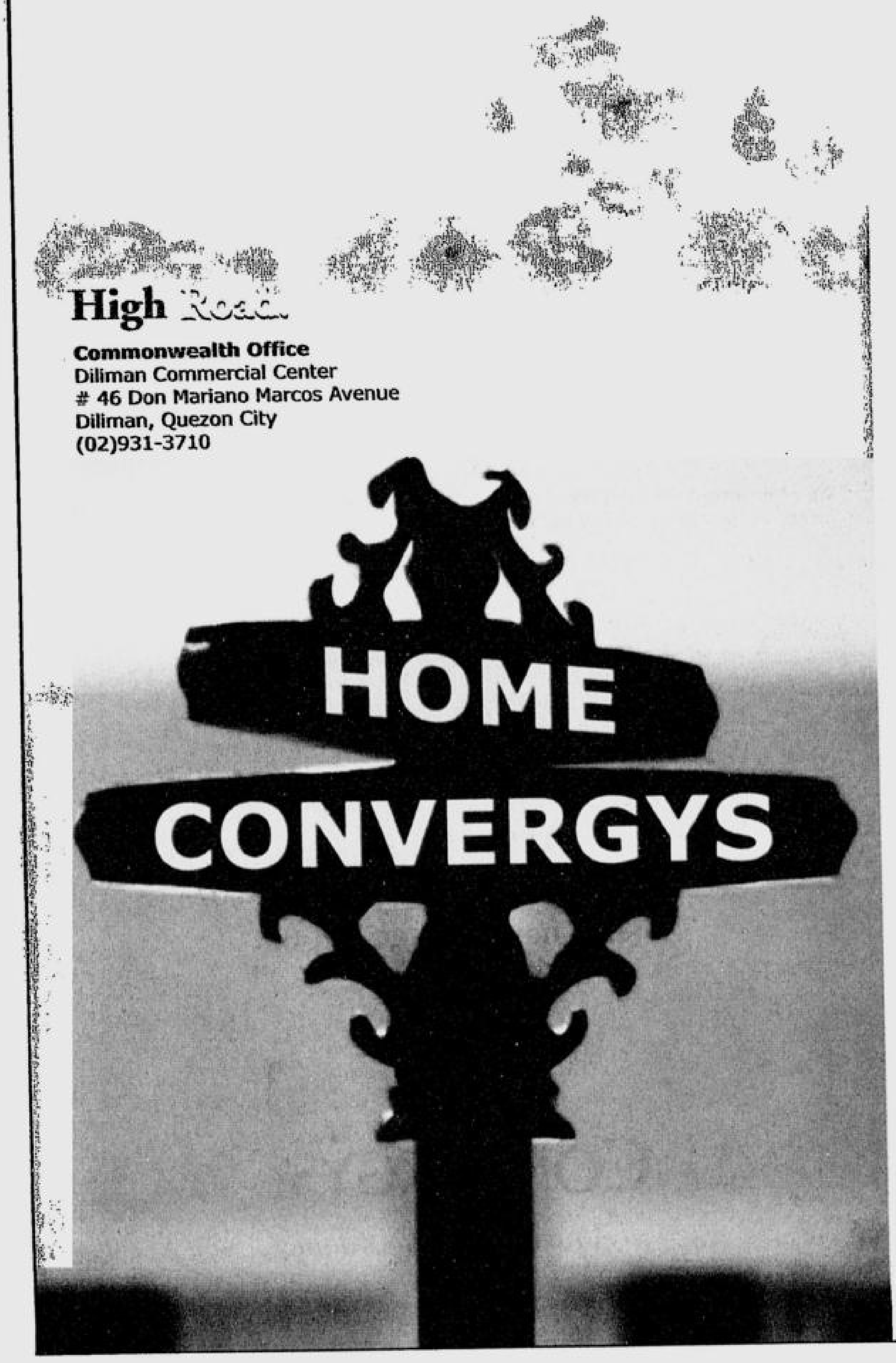

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The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM) Project
Scope of Work

Regional Director

Background
The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives; and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers.

A regional director for Mindanao region will have overall responsibility for the implementation of activities in the region. Implementation will focus on working with project partners in the strategic areas to implement a core package of grants, technical assistance and training. A key responsibility will be the integration of regional staff to accomplish all activities and achieve all targets and objectives in the region. The regional director will also ensure the synchronization of the activities of the three components in a manner that component activities are complementing each other's goals. All staff in regional offices report to the regional director. In addition, the regional director will be tasked with monitoring the performance of the field-based FP coordinators, identifying issues and providing solutions, and working with the senior technical advisors to jointly develop a mutually acceptable work plan for each strategic area

The regional director will also directly supervise the activities of component managers in three technical areas, all of whom will work out of the regional office. The component managers are tasked with monitoring activities and providing technical guidance to field implementation activities in their component area, which include workplace-based FP programs, market development, and private provider network expansion. Component managers also provide technical support and oversight to the FP coordinators serving as project managers in each of the strategic areas in their region, comprised of provinces or cities. Component managers reporting to the Luzon director will divide responsibilities for north and south Luzon.

General Tasks
1. Review the project technical proposal and other relevant documentation, including the following: USAID/Philippines' strategic plan; documents from past and present projects in the Philippines relevant to PRISM such as the CMS. The Policy Project; research studies on private sector programs and initiatives in family planning; the PRISM annual work plans PRISM quarterly reports for the first year; the reports from the National Demographic and Health Surveys and Annual Family Planning Surveys; SIA assessment reports; and other relevant materials on local and national FP programs
2. Participate in the annual project work planning processes and provide input into the establishment of coordination mechanisms between head office and regional field offices.
3. Manage regional office staff in a manner that promotes efficiency and productivity at the workplace.
4. Build effective partnerships with local organizations and represent PRISM in events sponsored by local organizations when necessary.

Specific Tasks
1. Review and approve integrated work plans prepared by FP coordinators, with input from component managers and senior technical advisors, for each SIA in the region;
2. Prepare and submit required reports on time.
3. Review SIA activities with respect to each component objective and evaluate corresponding fund expenditures with respect to cost efficiency.
4. Work with office administrative staff in the preparation of the office annual budget.
5. Engage regional staff in the development of strategies to anticipate, prevent, and counteract potential opposition to project activities.
6. Conduct weekly staff meeting for staff in the regional office, and conduct monthly regional meeting for all regional staff
7. Plan and conduct orientation and regular monthly meeting of FP coordinators in the SIAs covered by the regional office.
8. Conduct regular quarterly field visits in SIAs, and provide feedback to Manila-based senior technical advisors of any implementation problems that need attention and solutions.
9. Monitor and evaluate the performance of technical and administrative office staff and submit to headquarters performance evaluation forms signed by the staff.
10. Approve all regional expenditures and act as signatory on a regional bank account.

Reporting
The regional director will report directly to the Senior Field Operations Director who will be responsible for the monitoring regional directors' overall performance.

Qualifications:
- With at least 10 years of management experience in any of the following fields: family planning, health care, sales, etc
- Networking experience with health provider associations, pharmaceutical industry associations, business organizations is an advantage
- Preferably with post graduate degree in business, management or other related fields
- Excellent in written and verbal communications
- Preferably resident of Davao

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 17th February 2006.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

TICKETING/RESERVATION STAFF
Female, Single, college graduate with experience

SALES PERSONNEL
Female, Single, college graduate with pleasing personality

ACCOUNTING
Female, Single & must be a graduate of accounting

SECRETARY
Female, Single, College graduate

Interested parties, please apply in person from Monday-Friday 5-6pm:
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353 E. T. Yuchengco st. *(formerly Nueva st.)*,
Binondo, Manila

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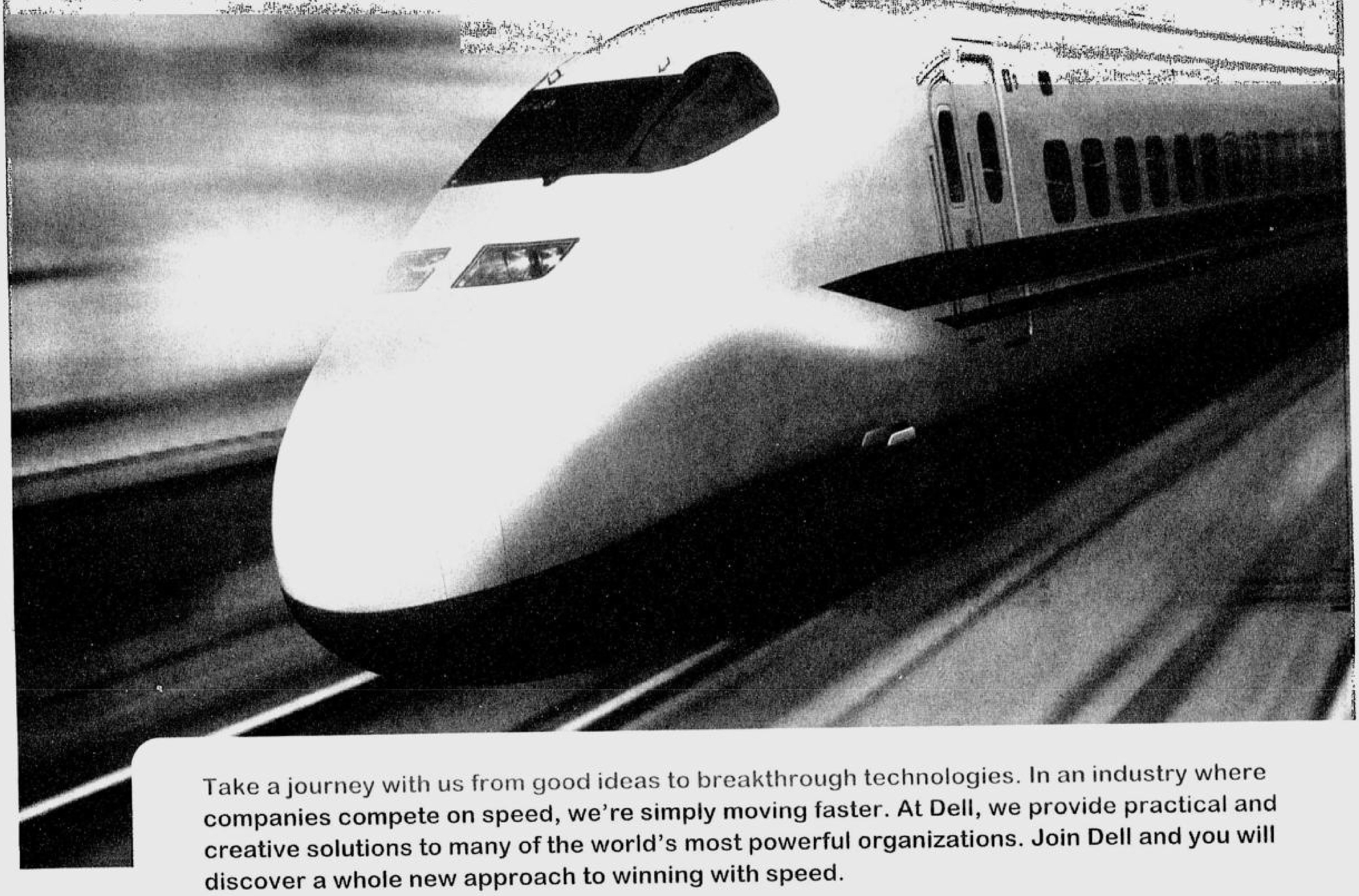

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JOB OPENINGS

Tuloy sa Don Bosco School in Alabang is dedicated to the training of streetchildren and out-of- school youth from depressed areas:

We are looking for:

PURCHASING OFFICER

- College Graduate
- 3-5 years experience in the Purchasing function
- With proven ethical standards

HRD OFFICER

- Psychology / Behavioral Science Graduate
- 4-5 years experience in various facets of HR management
- With good mentoring / leadership skills

TEACHERS

- Licensed / 1 - 2 years experience in English, Mathematics, Science, Computer Arts, Physical Education.
- We will consider fresh graduates with impressive scholastic credentials

PSYCHOLOGIST

- Psychology graduate
- At least 3-5 yrs. experience in clinical psychology, psychological assessment, therapy sessions and counseling in a school/clinic set-up

SOCIAL WORKER

- B.S. in Social Work / Licensed
- 1-2 yrs. experience in a Center-based set-up

Our clientele are very special to us. Hence, we are looking for personnel with a sense of commitment, creativity, high level of maturity and effective people management.

We will pay a salary commensurate to your qualifications.

Due to urgency of our requirements, please hand-carry your RESUME to our HRD Dept., Alabang-Zapote Road Corner San Jose St., Alabang, Muntinlupa City or E-Mail: hrd_tuloy@yahoo.com or call at 775-0484 to 85, 775-0683 c/o Cris L. Salillas.

CODE NGO

A network of development NGO networks
is in need of:

Finance and Administrative Manager

- Bachelor's degree in commerce/accounting; With at least 5 years experience in fund accounting, audit, investment management; office management; preferably a CPA.
- Can effectively work with and supervise a team.
- Competency in Word, Excel, and accounting software.
- Excellent in oral and written communication skills.

Finance Assistant

- Bachelor's degree in commerce/accounting; With at least one year experience in finance/ accounting.
- Can effectively work as a member of a team.
- Competency in Word, Excel, Accounting software (an advantage).

Send application letter and resumé by
February 15, 2006 to:

Deputy Executive Director
2/F CCS Building, Social Dev. Complex
Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights,
Quezon City
Fax: 426-5938
Email: cbelangel@codengo.org

Small US-based company w/ support office in Manila looking for self-starter with college-degree. Fluent English & Tagalog, Spanish a plus. General office/phone/internet skills imperative. Experience in Word & Excel helpful. Salary to P20K based on experience & skills. E-mail resume to ltoszialcita@yahoo.com.

ANZ Royal

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Exciting career opportunity in Cambodia

Our potential client, ANZ Royal Bank, based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia is a joint venture newly established between Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ) and the Royal Group of Cambodia. ANZ Royal is now seeking for qualified candidates for following position:

ATM SUPPORT OFFICER

This key role is part of a team launching world-class electronic banking channels into Cambodia.

Main Duties

- Setting up ATM and configuration services to the EBS (Electronic Banking Services) customer database.
- Supporting to electronic banking channels (ATM & POS)
- Issuing and processing Access cards and PIN
- Managing customer data on electronic systems
- Handling internal and external customers with electronic banking queries
- In charge of trouble shooting systems
- Assisting the programming and testing of terminal equipment (ATM & POS)
- Minimizing user downtime from EBS – related issues

Skills/ Experience

- Previous experiences with ATM setting up.
- Demonstrated working knowledge of support for electronic banking channels (ATM, POS and Internet).
- Degree holder, major in Banking or in related fields
- Good knowledge of Banking procedures, processes and policies.
- Strong English communication, negotiation and problem solving skills.
- Strong project management ability to plan and coordinate activity.

A competitive remuneration package commensurate with experience and ability will be offered to the successful candidate. Please send your detailed resume with current and expected salary to:

Interested applicants meeting the above requirements should submit their CV along with a cover letter, by email to: leangr@anz.com

Applications must be submitted no later than 17th February 2006. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for interview.

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- Licensed Civil Engineer
- DOLE Accredited / Safety Practitioner

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- Licensed Geodetic Engineers
- Must have Knowledge in both Vertical & Horizontal Construction
- At least 5 years Actual Site Experience
- Knowledgeable in Computer-Aided Design

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- Accounting Graduate
- Preferably with experience in a construction firm

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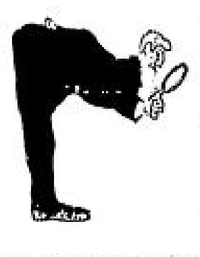

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HUAWEI

HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC.

Incorporated in 1988, Huawei Technologies is a private high-tech enterprise with headquarters in Shenzhen, China. We are now the largest telecom vendor in China and are quickly becoming a leading player in the global telecom market. We focus on such areas as WCDMA, CDMA2000, NGN, xDSL and data communications. Currently we provide telecom products and solutions for over 300 operators worldwide and 28 of the world's top 50 operators are our customers.

We have 35,000 employees and operate worldwide in nine regions. Our sales in 2005 reached USD8.2 billion.

We are currently in an expansion program and are inviting qualified applicants to join our company.

1. Account Manager

Main Responsibilities:

- Understanding customer requirements and feedback on market information;
- Being involved in all activities to ensure the establishment of the brand;
- Discovering sales opportunities and achieving sales targets in cooperation with the pre-sales team;
- Being responsible for credit collection with finance team.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or above in Telecommunications, Electrical, Computer Science or relevant area. MBA preferred;
- Minimum two years working experience in telecommunication field;
- Familiarity with international trade, international law, business management knowledge, credit collection, finance management, and bidding procedure, etc.;
- Excellent verbal and written English;
- Fluency in mandarin will be an added advantage.

2. Marketing Support Manager/ Officer

Main Responsibilities:

- Producing a variety of correspondence, reports and slide presentations;
- Assisting the project group in the preparation of all kinds of bidding documents;
- Assisting the marketing group in the preparation of regular marketing reports including monthly, quarterly and annual report, gathering and summarizing data, information updates;
- Scheduling appointments and coordinating meeting arrangements with clients.

Requirements:

- Bachelors or Master's Degree in English Literature. Exposure to media industry would be an added advantage;
- Possess excellent English communication and writing skills;
- Minimum two years working experience in correspondence, documentation and marketing report write-up;
- High degree of energy, flexibility and urgency;
- Strong sense of confidentiality and business ethics;
- Able to work well in a fast-paced changing environment;
- Preferably female.

3. Public Relations Manager/Officer

Main Responsibilities:

- Assisting the marketing group in various marketing activities such as product launch and promotion ;
- Maintaining good relationship with present clients and establishing new relationship with potential clients;
- Collecting useful information and data to help the company achieve better performance in the market;
- Cooperating with media in promoting company image, brand equity and pubic relations;
- Attending important public events and social activities;
- Dealing with concerned government agencies regarding issuance of certificates, permits, licenses, etc..

Requirements:

- Bachelors or Master's Degree in Public Relations, Business Administration, Marketing or related area.
- Fluent in both spoken and written English;
- Minimum two years working experience in public relations or sales and marketing ;
- Pleasant personality with excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- Able to work well in a fast-paced changing environment;
- Preferably female; Mandarin speaking would be an added advantage.

4. Product Manager/Engineer (GSM/CDMA/3G)

Main Responsibilities:

- Working with Account Manager on the planning of competitive strategy including business plan and action plan, based on the business opportunities and threats;
- Supporting GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CDMA/3G pre-sales activities by responding to RFI, RFQ, RFP, preparing and delivering technical presentation and demonstrating to customers in Asia Pacific Region;
- Working closely with sales team to plan and design a competitive mobile network solutions;
- Marketing of Huawei GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CEMA/3G products, including network concepts and solutions;
- Supporting GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CDMA/3G product promotion related activities.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or above in Telecommunications or related field of study;
- Minimum two years experience in the GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CDMA/ 3G environment;
- Solid technical background in telecommunications network and mobile network;
- Hands-on skill and knowledge on GSM/GPRS/EDGE/CDMA/3G network;
- Good planning and business presentation skills, and able to work well in fast-paced, changing environment;
- Fluency in Mandarin will be an added advantage;
- New graduates with good records are encouraged to apply.

5. Product Manager/Engineer (Fixed Network)

Main Responsibilities:

- Working with Account Manager on the planning of competitive strategy including business plan and action plan, based on the business opportunities and threats;
- Supporting NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH pre-sales activities by responding to RFI, RFQ, RFP, preparing and delivering technical presentation and demonstrating to customers in Asia Pacific Region;
- Working closely with sales team to plan and design a competitive fixed network solutions;
- Marketing of Huawei NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH products, including network concepts and solutions;
- Supporting NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH product promotion related activities.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Telecommunications or related field of study;
- Minimum two years experience in the NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH environment;
- Solid technical background in telecommunications network and fixed network;
- Hands-on skill and knowledge on NGN/MSAN/DSLAM/PSTN SWITCH network;
- Good planning and business presentation skills, and able to work well in fast-paced changing environment;
- Fluency in Mandarin will be an added advantage;
- New graduates with good records are encouraged to apply.

6. Product Manager/Engineer (Optical Network)

Main Responsibilities:

- Working with Account Manager on the planning of competitive strategy including business plan and action plan, based on the business opportunities and threats;
- Supporting Optical Network Product pre-sales activities by responding to RFI, RFQ, RFP, preparing and delivering technical presentation and demonstrating to customers in Asia Pacific Region;
- Working closely with sales team to plan and design a competitive Optical network solutions;
- Marketing of Huawei Optical Network products, including network concepts and solutions;
- Supporting Optical Network product promotion related activities.

Requirements:

- Bachelor or Higher degree in Telecommunications or related field of study; Basic SDH&WDM knowledge;
- Minimum two years experience in the Optical Network environment;
- Solid technical background in telecommunications network and Transmission network;
- Hands-on skill and knowledge on Transmission network;
- Good planning and business presentation skills, and able to work well in fast-paced changing environment;
- Fluency in Mandarin will be an added advantage;
- New graduates with good records are encouraged to apply.

7. GSM/CDMA/3G Marketing or Technical Support Engineer

Main Responsibilities:

- Planning and implementing pre-sales marketing activities such as market exploration and promotion, or post-sales project implementation and technical support for GSM/CDMA/3G such as on-site survey, installation, commissioning and maintenance;
- Providing post-sales technical support to customers through remote and on-site trouble-shooting;
- Providing technical solution and hands-on support on GSM/CDMA/3G.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or above majoring in Telecommunications, Electronics, Electrical, or related area;
- Minimum one year experience in dealing with mobile communication network;
- Hands-on skill and knowledge on GSM/GPRS/CDMA network engineering;
- Good communication skills;
- A team player and able to work well in a fast-paced, changing environment.

8. Project Manager

Main Responsibilities:

- Planning and supervision of surveying, installing, testing, commissioning, material and logistics forwarding including delivering equipment to site;
- General controlling over engineering activities including exchanging of plans, drawings and other information with customers, approval of equipment layouts and network configuration data;
- Supervising and control over sub-contractors to strictly comply with the relevant conditions of the contract;
- Participating in bidding activities, identifying implementation requirements from tender documents, planning resources and budget as well as making out solutions for customer implementation demands and undertaking procurement management when necessary.

Requirements:

- Minimum two years working experience in telecommunication project management;
- Bachelor's Degree in Telecommunication Engineering or Electronics Engineering.

9. Radio Network Planning & Radio Network Optimization Engineer

Main Responsibilities:

- Be responsible for 2G&3G radio network design and radio network performance improvement service delivery;
- Be responsible for technical marketing and sales support of network and technology consulting services;
- Be responsible for radio network evaluation, network parameters design and optimization.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or above in Electronics, Telecommunications Engineering, or related field of study;
- Fluent in both spoken and written English;
- At least 2 years working experience in GSM or CDMA, WCDMA is preferred;
- Ability to work independently and to build up good customer relations;
- Good communication skills and ability to work in multi-cultural environment;
- Self-motivated, customer oriented.

10. Technical Support Engineer (Switch & Access Network)

Main Responsibilities:

- Performing technical support such as on-site survey, installation, commissioning and maintenance with excellent customer service skills;
- Implementing operation & maintenance solutions on time and effectively to fulfill customers' requirements and solve technical issues;
- Constructing and maintaining up-to-date network information to ensure accurate and sufficient database for maintenance & troubleshooting.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or above majoring in Telecommunications, Electronics, Electrical, or related area;
- Minimum two years working experience in related systems engineering and network design in the telecommunications and/or data communication environment;
- Experience in both service provider and telecommunication equipment vendor environment preferred;
- Able to work well in a fast-paced, changing environment.

11. Application and Software Engineer (A&S)

Main Responsibilities:

- Being responsible for IN (Intelligent Network) project implementation, which includes installation and testing;
- Being responsible for Intelligent Network routine maintenance;
- Being responsible for SMS (Short Message System), MMS and other Data Services project implementation, which includes installation and testing;
- Being responsible for Data Services routine maintenance;
- Being responsible for A&S related technical activities.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or above majoring in Computer Science, Telecommunications Engineering or related area;
- Minimum one-year working experience in telecom industry;
- At least one-year practical experience in Unix, working experience in HP-UX, SUN-OS, IBM-AIX;
- Knowledgeable in telecommunication and CCS7 system;
- Knowledgeable in Database systems, work experience in Informix, Oracle, Sybase;
- Ability to work independently and to build up good customer relations;
- Good Communication skills and ability to work in a team;
- Self-motivated, flexible, enthusiastic and fluent in both oral and written English;
- Must be ready to work under pressure in all kinds of working environments;
- Below 28 years old.

12. Bidding Design Engineer

Main Responsibilities:

- Completing overseas project survey design by making use of engineering design platform;
- Providing bidding support to overseas projects with respect to survey design and ensuring smooth engineering survey and construction;
- Assisting in collecting and sorting out information about engineering design, timely reporting on various investigational data and providing fundamental basis for the perfection of project bidding and design information system.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or above majoring in Electronics, Electrical, Telecommunications, Computer or related area;
- Minimum three years experience in related systems and project engineering in the telecommunications environment;
- Experience in both service provider and equipment vendor environment preferred;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- Frequent business travels in the Asia Pacific region will be required;
- Fluency in Mandarin will be an added advantage.

13. Turn Key Manager/Engineer

Main Responsibilities:

- Supporting project bidding and post-bidding technical clarifications;
- Cooperating with project group in the preparation of bidding documents including SOC, giving technical suggestions, collecting quotations from different suppliers for project-support products and choosing the most qualified suppliers during the bidding period;
- Clarifying technical aspects with clients such as change of product configuration, number of units and quotations after winning a bid.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, preferably with an MBA, with relevant experience of not less than two years in Telecom industry or any technical/engineering fields;
- Have basic telecom knowledge, especially on fixed and mobile Network as well as 3G;
- Have knowledge and experience of telecom correlative equipment (Microwave, PCM, Equipment Room Power Supply, Test Tools, Optical Fiber Cable and Copper Cable, Shelters, Fire Suppression/ detection, Air Conditioning Systems, etc.);
- Have good communication skills to discuss with customers about the required products;
- Be an excellent negotiator with leadership skills;
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Please send your comprehensive resume *ASAP* by email stating the applied position, your availability, and a current 2x2 photo, present & expected salary to:

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philippines@huawei.com
Huawei Technologies Phils. Inc.

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ASSISTANT AUDITORS ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS BILLING ASSISTANTS	*M/F, 26 years old-below, Accounting or Financial Acctg. graduates, Articulate Willing to travel, Computer literate.*
CUSTOMER CARE ASSISTANTS CLAIMS PROCESSORS LIAISON COORDINATORS	*M/F, 20-26 years old, Physical Theraphy, Nursing, MedTech, Bio or allied courses, Articulate, Willing to travel, Computer skills*
MARKETING CLERKS PROCESSORS/ENCODERS	*M/F, 20-26 years old, Business/ Computer graduates, willing to travel, computer skills*
ACTUARIAL ANALYST	*M/F, 20-26 years old-below, Math or Actuarial graduate, computer skills, articulate*
HR ASSISTANT	*M/F, 20-25 years old; Psych or Behavioral Science grad, personable, articulate*

Interested applicants who will handcarry their resumés and 2x2 photo may do so from Monday-Friday, between 8:30 AM –5:00 PM not later than February 17, 2006.
ATM-PAI, Inc. Unit 1610 Cityland 10 Tower 1, 6815 Ayala Avenue, Makati City (beside RCBC Plaza and behind GT Tower / Shell Maya)
Telephones: 817-3315; 812-2654; 812-2653 / E-mail: atmpai@gmail.com

IMPORTANT: For those who will send their documents by e-mail, please do not attach your resumé. Combine them with your application letter instead of a separate file.

Cenit Lighting
Philippines, Inc.

Urgently Needs

SALES SUPERVISOR/MANAGER

- Male/Female, 26 35 years old with pleasing personality, preferably graduate of Architecture/Interior Design/ Electrical Engineering
- At least 1 yr. experience in sales or customer service preferably dealing with lighting or electrical products and accessories.
- Must have excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Filipino. Knowledge of Chinese an advantage but not required.
- Must have excellent PR skills, customer-oriented, self-motivated, pro-active, resourceful, aggressive, hardworking, honest and trustworthy.
- Flexible, organized and detail-oriented with ability to multi-task.
- Strong leadership qualities and good team player.

Interested applicants are invited to apply personally or e-mail comprehensive resumé, TOR, certifications, colored ID photo to: hrd@zenithinternational.ph

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Look for Mr. Gel Villanueva / Mr. Alex Casulla

A U.S. based multinational company engaged in power generation is looking for experienced and highly skilled applicants to fill up the need for:

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

Responsible for computer network/system management for Oracle and Windows 2000 servers and upgrades of equipment to ensure that computers, servers peripherals, LAN and Internet connection will operate reliably. Address major server issues, wide area network issues, new account setups, daily monitoring services including backups, documented procedures, emergency password changes. Break/fix for workstation issues, troubleshooting connectivity issues; procurement/installation of upgrades and applying software patches.

Qualifications:

- **Has a college degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or Information Technology or equivalent and experienced in the installation and maintenance of computer network systems and database management systems.**
- **Must have at least six years experience in the MIS field.**
- **With extensive knowledge of computer operating systems and database management software.**

An attractive remuneration package and training opportunities await the successful candidate. Interested applicants may send their full résumés with ID picture and contact numbers to the following address not later than February 15, 2006:

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Unit 1706-1709, Robinsons Equitable Tower
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Recruitment Manager
Employee Relations Officer
Recruitment Officers (Cebu and Davao)
Recruitment Associate

SERVICE DELIVERY
Program Director
Director, Quality Management
Forcedesk Manager
Workforce Manager
Operations Manager, Financial Services
Team Supervisors
Process and Reporting Analyst

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Production Support Director
Telecommunications Manager
Consulting Manager
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JOB Market

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2006
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3 SECTIONS

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ON PAGES 10 & 11

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NCO is the industry leader in providing clients with successful business process outsourcing (BPO) solutions. Our outsourcing portfolio includes accounts receivable management, customer management services, and back office services for a diversified customer base. Since NCO's inception in 1926, our goal has remained constant — to reduce client operating expenses, increase cash flow, and improve their customers' experience. Our best-in-class, results-driven reputation, strong financial track record, and proven business model makes NCO **the** choice for BPO solutions.

THE WORLD BANK OFFICE MANILA

Requires a

MINDANAO TRUST FUND SECRETARIAT COORDINATOR

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) seeks a candidate with strong management and operational experience in fund management for post-conflict and development work as Mindanao Trust Fund (MTF) Secretariat Coordinator. This position will be for two (2) year Co-terminous Term appointment, subject to one-year probationary period, with possibility of renewal. The appointment is co-terminous with the Program and maybe extended depending on availability of funds and continuation of the Program which is expected to be about five years.

The World Bank (WB) is the Administrator for a multi-donor Mindanao Trust Fund (MTF) that was set up to provide transitional assistance for reconstruction and development in areas affected by the decades long armed conflict. The MTF funded program—Mindanao Trust Fund-Reconstruction and Development Program (MTF-RDP)—will have two phases: *Phase 1* (prior to peace agreement signing between the Government and MILF) will focus on capacity-building. *Phase 2* (after peace agreement signing) will comprise a full implementation of sub-projects in conflict-affected areas.

The Administrator and the MTF Steering Committee will be assisted by a Secretariat whose objective will be to support the implementation of the MTF Program in a timely, efficient, flexible and accountable manner. The Secretariat will report to the Administrator and the Steering Committee and will be based at the World Bank Office in Manila.

The Secretariat Coordinator, supported by a small staff and guided by the MTF Task Team Leader (TTL), will have overall responsibility for coordinating the MTF work program and to ensure that the following tasks are properly carried out, **but are not limited to:**

Partner Coordination
- Coordinate with development stakeholders working in Mindanao to ensure complementarity with MTF-RDP activities;
- Prepare a semi-annual consolidated report on activities funded by the MTF;
- Review all reports submitted on the activities of the MTF prior to their submission to the Steering Committee and request for more information/clarification from the field, if needed;
- Organize and handle all logistical arrangements for and prepare minutes of Steering Committee meetings;
- Disseminate to contributors and long-standing observers all such information, recommendations and requests as may be received from time to time relating to the Program requirements; and

Administration of the Mindanao Trust Fund
- Assist the TTL prepare, follow up, manage and monitor grant agreements with Trust Fund Recipients;
- Assist the TTL prepare and follow-up on administrative agreements with Contributing Partners;
- Prepare periodic MTF progress and financial reports, including annual reports; and

Resource Mobilization
- Assist with resource mobilization for national programs and special projects within the MTF framework;

Technical Cross-Support
- Organize review missions for identification, supervision and evaluation by the WB and other focal points;
- Help write, finalize and/or edit mission and consultant reports based on the quality standards expected; and
- Develop TORs and recruit individual consultants and/or firms, using appropriate WB guidelines.

Communications Strategy
- Develop and execute a communication and sensitization strategy for the MTF-RDP. As part of this task, prepare pamphlets, brochures and information fact sheets/case studies, as appropriate; and
- Manage the eMindanao Portal together with the private sector developer.

Monitoring and Evaluation
- Establish a comprehensive data base on beneficiaries of programs in Mindanao and special projects;
- Consolidate progress reporting of the MTF-RDP activities; and
- Monitor the External Monitoring Agent's performance and quality of reporting.

Other Tasks
- Perform others tasks as may be assigned by the TTL from time to time.

Selection criteria:
- Masters degree or higher in development studies, economics, sociology, public administration, political science, anthropology, social work or a related field.
- At least ten years of work experience dealing with peace, post-conflict and development-related issues and must have strong local knowledge of Mindanao.
- Exhibit strong managerial competence and fund management experience.
- Extensive experience in working with donor or development partners.
- Familiarity with the Bank's administrative, financial management and procurement procedures and projects in Mindanao is preferable
- Excellent communication skills, both written and oral.
- Extensive knowledge of community driven development (CDD) approach, conflict management principles and procedures, and assistance programs in other post-conflict countries in the region and the world will be valuable.
- Familiarity with key stakeholders, groups and individuals in Mindanao.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than February 17, 2006. **Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.** Send the above to:

The Human Resource Officer
P.O. Box 200 c/o Classified Ads
Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Building B, SM Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City

Assistant Computer Systems Analyst

Responsibilities

The position designs, develops, implements and maintains medium to large-scale application systems involving medium to high-level technical complexity, either through leadership of an independent project team or through participation in major systems development projects as a principal member. Specific responsibilities include:
- conducting user requirement analysis for medium to large scale application systems in whole or in part as assigned (hereunder referred to as assigned application systems), and preparing application design, data models, functional specifications, and development/implementation plans.
- designing and preparing detailed system/program specifications for assigned application systems to meet user requirements and interface with related systems.
- allocating programming workload among staff assigned to his/her project team, taking on personally the most complex programming tasks involved in assigned application systems.
- ensuring that programs are accurately coded according to specifications and fully documented as required by the ADB standards.
- developing and implementing system test plans and procedures for assigned application systems, to ensure functional operations.
- conducting required system conversion and implementing assigned application systems in coordination with users, which includes the preparation of user and operator instructions and training of users.
- planning and implementing required system enhancement and maintenance of assigned application systems to ensure continued application efficiency and database integrity.
- ensuring that assigned application systems are developed/maintained in adherence to ADB's standards and methods, including requirements for comprehensive system documentation.
- supervising the work of staff assigned to his/her project team, and providing guidance and training to them.
- coordinating with the staff of outsourcing contractors engaged in the development and maintenance of assigned application systems, and those in technical support areas.
- regularly submitting reports on progress status including problems encountered and resource requirements of assigned application systems.

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Information Systems and Technology Specialist under Enterprise Resource Planning, Office of Information Systems and Technology.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include:
- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a Bachelor degree in MIS, Computer Science, Business Administration, Accounting, Mathematics, Engineering or related areas.
- at least five years experience in development and implementation of Oracle eBusiness Suite Applications; experience of frontline support in Oracle ERP and Oracle Metalink and TAR process.
- knowledge in delivery (write or execute) of SQL and PL/SQL; knowledge of Java, XML and OA Framework; knowledge in Oracle Workflow, Application Object Library (AOL), and use of Oracle APIs; excellent knowledge of minimum of four of the following Oracle ERP Modules: Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, General Ledger, Purchasing, Assets, Inventory, Time and Labor, HRMS, Payroll, Advanced Benefits, Self Service.
- proficiency in systems analysis and design, and preparation of functional and technical specifications using Oracle AIM.
- demonstrated involvement in system upgrades and new product implementations; demonstrated ability to work closely with users and provide analysis, design, testing of solutions in Oracle ERP; demonstrated ability to use standard Oracle ERP functionality to meet complex business requirements.
- ability to research and resolve functional and technical issues primarily revolving around Oracle ERP Financials, procurement, HRMS modules.
- a track record of providing innovative solutions to business problems in Oracle ERP, minimizing customizations.
- good interpersonal skills.
- ability to be a strong team player, hard worker and self-starter not intimidated by new technology.
- commitment to producing quality outputs and performance targets, both individually and as a team member.
- excellent at communicating, interacting and cooperating with others to ensure that all aspects of a task are addressed.
- proficiency in oral and written communication skills.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS06-018(4)-OIST** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **17 February 2006.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

www.adb.org

Asian Development Bank ADB

Send your resumé instantly.

JOB Market
www.jobmarketonline.com

SALES EXECUTIVE

- Must be a graduate of any course
- 22-28 years old
- Pleasing personality
- Can speak fluent English
- Preferably w/ experience

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Jardines

Jardine Davies is one of the longest established marketing companies in the Philippines and is the exclusive distributor for market leading construction supply brands including Solignum, Thoroseal and Lentrek.

Continued high demand for our products and expansion of our Distribution channels has created the need for:

SENIOR SALES REPRESENTATIVES

The appointees will lead sales, marketing and promotion activities to support our existing Dealer network in servicing Retailers and end users. Responsibilities will also include arranging and hosting of trade and industry seminars and product presentations.

Applicants should desirably have an Engineering / Sales background and / or have experience in the selling of fast moving consumer products. They must be able to demonstrate stability and development within their careers to date.

KEY ACCOUNTS REPRESENTATIVE

The appointee joins our expanding DIY team in leading sales, marketing and promotion activities in the rapidly increasing area of our business. Responsibilities will include supporting our Dealer network in sales of our products as well as arranging and hosting in store, trade and industry seminars and product presentations.

A college degree is desirable for both positions. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required and very importantly, applicants must have outgoing personalities and be enthusiastic self-starters.

Competitive salary packages and benefits with a structured training and career path are offered to outstanding applicants.

Please send resumé **(incl. current salary details)** by post, email or fax to:

Ms. Nanette Poblador
Jardine Davies
222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
E-mail: HRD@jdigroup.com • Fax No. 844-7022

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  - HR back office support (Speaks Mandarin)
- Digital Imaging Company (Voice Support)
  - HR back office support (Speaks German or French)

Qualifications:

- Must have completed 3 years of college education or a 2 year Vocational course
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Call center experience is an advantage
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

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- Workforce Specialists
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- Site Operations Manager
- Deputy General Manager - Quality
- Assurance Manager - Quality
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- Assistant Manager - HR
- Deputy Manger - Sourcing
- Financial Planning Manager
- HR Associate - Performance Management
- Sr. Recruitment Associate - Sourcing
- Sr. HR Associate
- Sr. HR Associate - Compensation and Benefits
- OD Manager

Call center experience is a must for support and leadership posts.
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3/F Edsa Central Pavilion
Edsa cor Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City

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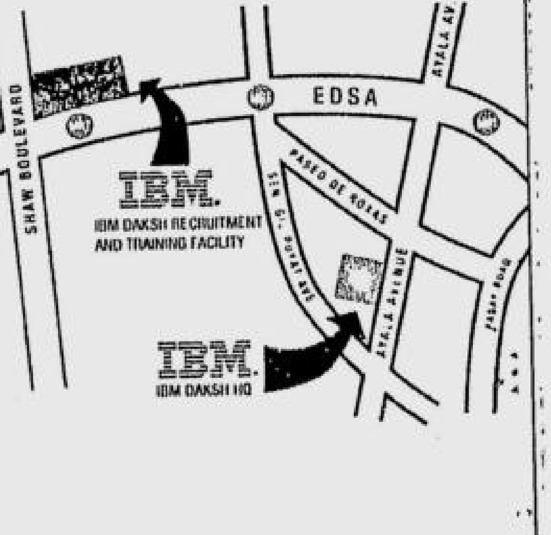
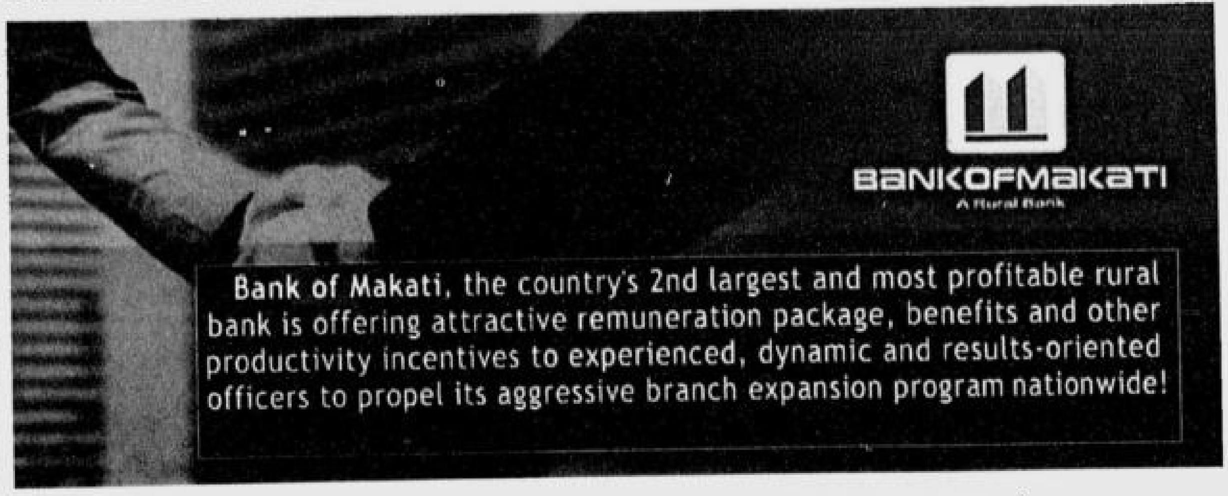
Sangguniang Bayan Hall,
3rd Floor Cainta City Hall
Cainta, Rizal
February 21-22, 2006
9 AM - 6 PM





Bank of Makati, the country's 2nd largest and most profitable rural bank is offering attractive remuneration package, benefits and other productivity incentives to experienced, dynamic and results-oriented officers to propel its aggressive branch expansion program nationwide!

OFFICERS FOR NEW BRANCHES

- Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Caloocan, Marikina, Valenzuela;
- Zapote, Cainta, Lipa City, Daet, Cabanatuan, Vigan;
- Cebu City, Iloilo, Bacolod, Tacloban, Puerto Princesa City; and,
- Davao.

BRANCH MANAGERS

We invite applicants who:

- **are currently receiving Php 30,000 or more;**
- are currently at least Asst. Manager Level (preferably in a commercial or thrift bank);
- demonstrate excellent managerial, marketing and negotiation skills; and,
- possess good oral and written communication skills.

BRANCH OPERATIONS HEADS/ CASHIERS

We invite applicants who:

- have at least 5 years experience in bank operations; and,
- possess good oral and written communication skills.

BRANCH TELLERS

We invite applicants who:

- are graduates of any business-related course;
- are not over 25 years old;
- are computer literate;
- have good scholastic records;
- have good oral and written communication skills;
- possess pleasing personality; and,
- preferably with at least one (1) year experience as teller or new accounts clerk.

BRANCH LOAN PROCESSORS

We invite applicants who:

- are graduates of any business-related course;
- are computer literate;
- possess good oral and written communication skills; and,
- are not over 25 years old.

CREDIT / FIELD INVESTIGATORS

We invite applicants who:

- are male, not over 30 years old;
- are graduates of any business-related course;
- have good scholastic records; and,
- preferably possess motorcycle driving skills.

ACCOUNT OFFICER – SPECIALIZED LENDING

We invite applicants who:

- will spreadhead specialized lending projects of the bank;
- will evaluate credit and project investment worthiness of prospective accounts;
- will provide project finance/term financing/ recommendations to clients and key company officials;
- will liaise with various government agencies (i.e. DBP, SSS, Landbank) involved in special lending programs to facilitate release of funds to ultimate borrowers and investors; and,
- possess at least five (5) years experience in specialized lending, bank relationship management, credit, structured loans, and project finance.

IT PROJECT MANAGER

We invite applicants who:

- have a working knowledge with Oracle or SQL server, Java and/or VB, HTML and/or XML;
- have at least one (1) year experience as Project Manager; and,
- have a minimum of two (2) years experience as Analyst/Programmer for a banking application software.

LEAD SYSTEMS ANALYST

We invite applicants who:

- have a working knowledge with Oracle or SQL server, Java and/or VB, HTML and/or XML; and,
- have a minimum of two (2) years experience as Analyst/Programmer for a banking application software.

ANALYST / PROGRAMMER

We invite applicants who:

- have a working knowledge with Oracle or SQL server, Java and/or VB, HTML and/or XML; and,
- have at least one (1) year experience in application development and maintenance in a bank.

IT AUDITORS

We invite applicants who:

- are responsible for reviewing the control environment of the Bank's Information System;
- are graduates of accounting, preferably CPAs;
- have at least three (3) years experience in IT Audit; and,
- have full knowledge of audit techniques and principles, internal controls, branch operations and banking systems.

AUDIT ASSISTANTS

We invite applicants who:

- have at least one (1) year experience in auditing, preferably in banks;
- possess good business writing skills; and,
- are graduates of accounting, preferably CPAs.

Interested applicants may send their application letter, resumé with 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department to rbmi_ho@yahoo.com
or to PO Box 1090 Makati Central Post Office, Makati City.

All applications will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

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Laguna BelAir Subdivision Sta. Rosa, Laguna

The Laguna BelAir School is a private educational institution that offers an integrated Science-Mathematics-IT-oriented curriculum made possible through a faculty training program assisted by the Philippine Science High School. Along with its special curriculum, the school is equipped with facilities designed to give students early exposure to and actual hands-on training in various subjects.

Now Accepting:

TEACHER APPLICANTS FOR ELEMENTARY & HIGH SCHOOL

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Education major in any of the following: English, Filipino, Social Studies, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science , Physics
- LET passer
- With pleasing personality and proficient in oral and written English
- Computer-literate
- Master's Degree an advantage

ASSISTANT GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

- Male/female, aged 28-33
- Graduate of BS Psychology or AB Behavioral Science
- With at least 2 years of work-related experience
- With good communication skills

Qualified applicants may send their application letter, comprehensive resume, 2 latest 2X2 ID photos, transcript of records and other pertinent documents to:

The Principal
Laguna BelAir School
Laguna BelAir Subd., Bgy. Don Jose, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Fax: (02) 600-10190
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JOB Market

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JOB OPENINGS

PA Government Services Inc. (PA), prime contractor of the USAID-funded Philippines Energy and Clean Air Project (ECAP), announces the opening of two (2) vacant positions **Administrative Support Specialist (full-time)** and **Accounting Assistant (part-time)**. The positions are located in the ECAP's Manila office.

Administrative Support Specialist

The specialist shall provide overall support to the COP and DCOP in the management and implementation of all matters relating to the project's finances, personnel administration, and logistics. He/she will handle a pool of administrative staff.

Specific tasks and duties shall include:

- Financial Management and Project Budgeting
  - Preparation of project's annual budgets and modifications
  - Preparation of monthly funding requirements of the project
  - Monitor and report on budget utilization
  - Review budget requests of activity managers and project area offices
- Financial Reporting
  - Timely submission of all required financial reports to USAID and US home office
  - Review of invoices, accounting reports, and all supporting documents
  - Maintain a secure database of project financial information
- Human Resources Management
  - Undertake recruitment and staff selection
  - Organize project staff planning and team building activities
  - Payroll Management
- Office Administration
  - Supervise IT network administration
  - Ensure compliance to local registration, licensing, labor and tax laws
  - Secure safety of office, equipment and files
  - In charge of the logistical requirements of the office

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree holder in Finance/Accounting; CPA is a plus
- 3-5 years experience in similar capacity
- Knowledge of US Federal Acquisition Regulations is an advantage
- Working knowledge of MS Word, Excel, and similar database software
- Willing to work on flexible hours

Accounting/Admin Assistant

Specific tasks shall include:

- Payroll preparation
- Review and processing of subcontractors' invoices
- Filing and maintenance of all accounting and financial records
- Perform banking transactions

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree holder in Finance/Accounting
- Superior organizational skills with special attention to detail
- Working knowledge of MS Word, Excel, and similar database software

For both positions, you must also be an excellent team player, have very good interpersonal skills, and possess the ability to work effectively under highly demanding situations. Remuneration is negotiable and will be commensurate to qualifications.

If you have the interest, qualification, and fortitude to meet the challenges of the positions, please submit your application letter, transcript of record, and detailed curriculum vitaé in MS word format to **r_delacruz@ecap.com.ph**. The office will only contact applicants who will qualify. Deadline for submission is Feb. 15, 2006.

URGENTLY NEEDED!

SALES ENGINEER

QUALIFICATION:

- ➢ MALE or FEMALE, 20 to 28 years old
- ➢ With or without experience
- ➢ Open for all BSCE graduate/undergraduate

Apply personally/send your resumé with picture

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LAW FIRM LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME

LAWYER

- 18,000.00 per month
- not more than 31 yrs. Old
- Call 7222369 (Michelle)
- Greenhills Office

ACCOUNTS PAYABALE STAFF

Accounting Graduate
Computer literate

For interested applicants, please come for an interview on February 6, anytime between 1pm - 5pm at:

CVG Centre, #36 1st Avenue,
Cubao, Quezon City
Look for **Mae Virtucio**

WANTED

SECRETARY

Graduate of 4 yr course
Female, single, below 30 yrs. old
– Computer literate
Send resumé to:
Animal House
737 Aurora Blvd., QC (7268112)
or email to: anihouse@skyinet.net

A Fast Growing Optical Laboratory urgently needs the following

- **Optician** *(preferably w/ experience)*
- **Sales & Marketing Staff**
- **Accounting Clerks**
- **Office Staff**
- **Supervisors** *(preferably Engineering Graduate)*

Please call 533-44-22 / 533-5133
Submit your Bio Data at #725 Sgt. Bumatay St., Mandaluyong City

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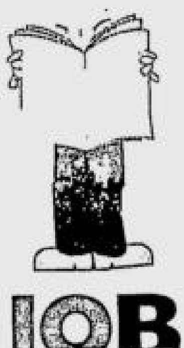
HYDRAULICS CONSULTANT

International research group requires a part time consultant with specialty knowledge of international hydraulics. Willing to travel for overseas research. Must be experienced in quality assurance, fluent in English. Mandarin speaking preferred but not essential. Sent CV including history, expected hourly & daily remuneration requirements to:

ken_patterson65@yahoo.com.au

All matters treated in the strictest of confidence.

Where you find the best.



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A Fast Growing Company engaged in the supply of Conveyor Components and Packaging Equipments is urgently in need of

SALES ENGINEERS

- Male or Female (Not more than 35 years of age)
- Graduate of any Engineering Course (Pref. ME, EE, ECE, IE)
- Knowledge in AutoCAD and MS Office Applications is a must
- Proficient in Oral and Written Communication Skills and can Communicate with all levels of an Organization
- At least One (1) year experience of the same field

Please submit your resumé at brian.ceralde@skyinet.net, Fax: (02) 374-4099 or submit personally at Unit 602 West Trade Center Bldg., 132 West Avenue, Phil-Am, Quezon City.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS MANDALUYONG BRANCH

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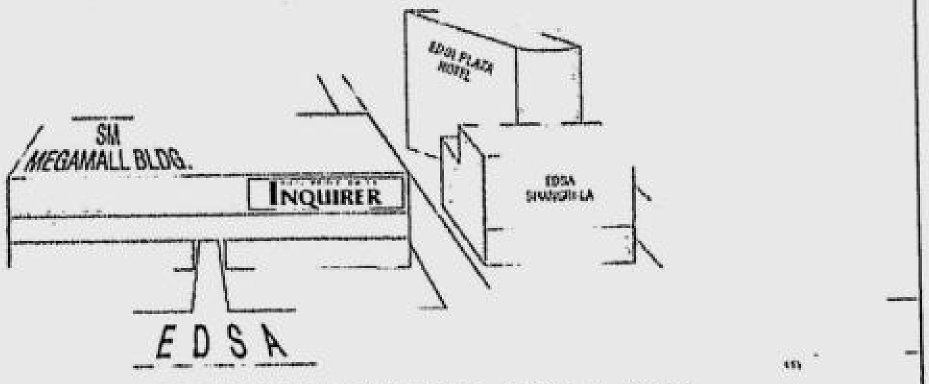

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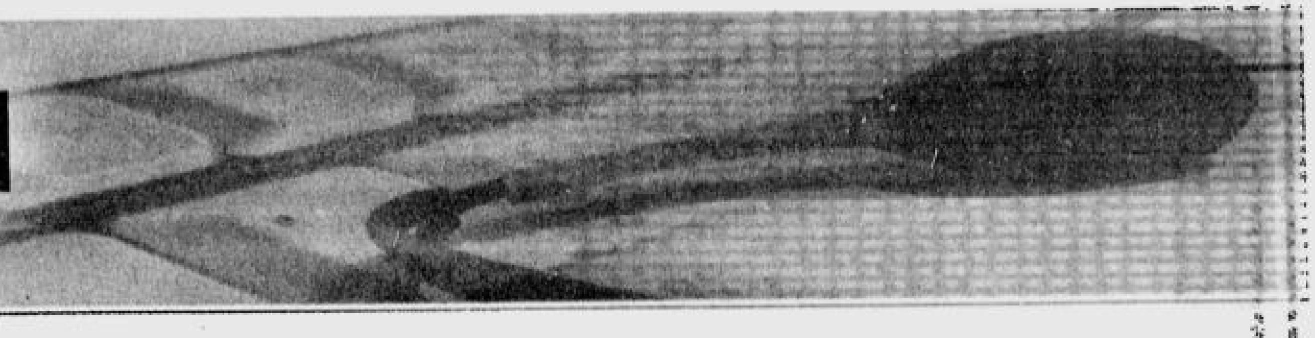
Teleperformance

GLOBAL CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT



Be all that you can be...

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES
Must possess at least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, or its equivalent; Technical background is an advantage

INBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS
At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

OUTBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS
At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Must have sales experience; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

CLIENT SERVICE MANAGER
Two (2) - Three (3) years in a call center; Should have excellent presentation skills; Detail-oriented; Team player

ASSISTANT CALL CENTER MANAGER
ACCM level / comparative to current or previous experience; One (1) year of customer service experience; Has strong background in computer applications; Outgoing/ Friendly/ Mature; Active listening skills; Strong motivational skills

TRAINERS (Technical Account)
Excellent presentation skills; Strong technical background is a must; Call center experience is an advantage; Team-oriented & able to work in a fast-paced environment

SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS
At least one (1) year in customer service in a call center; Technical experience is a plus; Outgoing friendly and mature; Strong motivational skills

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISORS
One (1) year supervisory experience in a call center environment; Experience as a quality assurance supervisor / analyst is an advantage

QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYSTS
Must have at least six (6) months call center experience; Must demonstrate honesty, reliability & ability to follow Corporate QA directives; Strong attention to details

MISSION CONTROL ANALYSTS
Must have at least six (6) months customer service experience; One (1) year call center experience; Ability to work under pressure, Meet deadlines & be accountable for the performance of others; Demonstrated leadership skills, Dependability and initiative; Flexible schedule

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
DATA ANALYST
At least (6) months administrative assistant experience in a fast-paced environment; Excellent skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Project and Outlook; Internet savvy; Excellent organizational and communication skills; Ability to prioritize and complete multi-task assignments; Excellent time management skills; Strong attention to detail

PROCESSING SPECIALIST
Able to work in a fast-paced environment; Proficient in Microsoft Excel; Excellent time management skills; Ability to prioritize and complete multi-task assignments; Strong attention to detail

Interested applicants may bring the following requirements:

Updated resume
2 pcs of 2x2 picture
6 pcs of 1x1 picture

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- With at least five (5) years work experience, three (3) years of which in a managerial
- Highly knowledgeable in all phases of accounting system
- With knowledge in the implementation of an Enterprise solution (SAP an advantage)

SALES / MARKETING EXECUTIVE

- Experience in marketing a must, exposure to sales, an advantage
- Capability to bring in new contacts is an asset
- Must be willing to travel locally and internationally for long period of time
- A + personality is required

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- At least 5 years secretarial / organizational experience
- Pro-active, fast thinker, strong-willed
- You must be able to keep a busy executive organized, and her staff in line.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS ASSISTANT

- University graduate
- Pleasing personality, creative insights
- Great people skills

TRADER TRAINEE / LOGISTICS TRAINEE

- Willing / able to travel locally and overseas
- Experience in import / export logistics, an advantage
- Any university degree is acceptable, but a degree in Fisheries and Food Technology will be an advantage.
- Must be willing to travel locally and internationally for long periods of time.
- An A+ personality is a requirement

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

- University Degree, preferably in HR Studies
- An independent thinker, with a working knowledge of HR procedures
- Organized and self directed

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEER

- Computer engineering or IT graduate
- Knowledge in hardware & software troubleshooting
- Thorough understanding of LAN

❖ **Applicants for the above positions must be fluent in oral and written English, computer literate and competent**

Please send your application letter, resumé and your latest 2x2 photo to:

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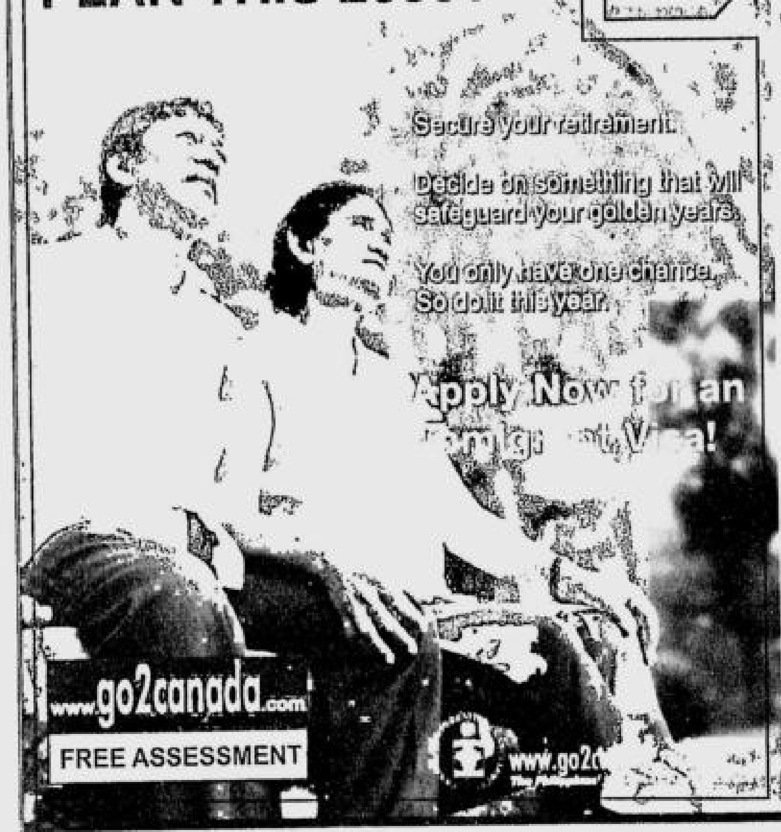
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- Baclaran - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- Cubao - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- Malate - Mondays to Saturdays @ 10AM & 2PM - See contact details above.
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- NAGA CITY - Wed @ 10AM, 2PM & 5PM / Sat @ 10AM & 2PM - See contact details above.
- DAGUPAN CITY - Daily @ 10AM & 2PM - FREE Seminar & Assessment - See contact details above
- February 5 - CALAMBA, LAGUNA @2PM - Riverview Resort & Conference Center, National Hi-Way, Parian. [Call Minnie (049) 545-1278 / 545-1856 | Grace Antiojo (02) 879-8390]
- February 5 - BALANGA, BATAAN @ 10AM - Chowking Balanga - Aguino St. Poblacion, Balanga City, Bataan [Call Haydee Palad (047) 791-5712 / 0927 552-5074 / 0919.473-2442]
- February 11 -TUGUEGARAO CITY @ 10AM - Adrinal's Restaurant, #29 Rizal St., Tuguegarao City Cagayan [Call Dr. Mary (078) 844-1305 | Ms. Gold (02) 879-0217 / 0916 749-6320]
- February 12 - NUEVA VISCAYA @ 2PM - Brand 'n' Bites - National Highway Solano Nueva Viscaya [Call Tina (078) 630-3397 | Gold Vinamo 879-0217 / 0916 749-6320]
- February 18 - IBA, ZAMBALES @ 10AM - Hopeful Beginnings Institute - Rhoi Bldg. II National Hi-way, Iba [Call Donna Cruz and Lourdes Cantas (047) 811-3580 [Lyn 0927 552-5074 | Ness 0919 473-2442]
- February 18 - OLONGAPO CITY @ 4PM - Zanzibar Hotel - 845 Magsaysay Drive, Olongapo City [Call Maribeth Manzano (047) 223-3080 | Susie (02) 879-0218 / 0916 939-0885]
- February 18 - SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA @ 9AM - Bahay Kamayan Restaurant Olongapo Gapan Rd., [Call Grace D. Antiojo (02) 879-8396 | Kristy (045) 961-2776 / 961-3782]
- February 18 - LIPA CITY, BATANGAS @ 9AM - Max's Restaurant-Pres. Laurel Hiway, Pilahan Sabang [Call Susan (02) 879-0313 / 0919 353-9491 | Emily (02) 879 0311 / 0916 661-7891]
- February 25 - ANGELES CITY @4PM - Marlim Mansion, Balibago, Angeles City [Call Lani Andrade (045) 322-2002 | Susie (02) 879-0218 | 0916 939-0885]
- February 25 - LIGTASAN, TARLAC CITY @ 9AM - La Maja Rica Hotel Mc Arthur Hiway, Ligtasan, Tarlac [Call Angie Pamintuan (045) 611-2051 to 2053 | Grace Antiojo (02) 879 8396]
- February 25 - ILAGAN, ISABELA @ 2pm - Maris Hotel, San Vicente, Ilagan Isabela [Call Mrs. Baby Neyra 0917 574 2587 | Ms. Gina 0916 7496329 / 02) 879 0217

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Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F Engineering Building, MWSS Compound
Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 9265233, 9266445, 4333443 to 49
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Interested applicants must submit their application together with transcript of records and diploma at the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), 2nd Floor MWSS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City.

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Corinthian Commercial Corporation is in need of a programmer for the migration of Accounting System and customization of Accounts Receivable and Payroll from Foxpro 2.6 to VB.Net as front end, MS SQL Server 2000 as back end and Crystal Reports 9 or 10 for reports.

Qualifications:

1. Must have at least 3 years experience in development and implementation using VB.Net language.
2. Must have extensive knowledge in SQL Server 2000 Database Design and Implementation, Foxpro 2.6, and Crystal Report 9 or 10.
3. Must have knowledge in accounting processes.
5. Must be a team player.
6. PHP and MySQL knowledge is a plus.

Interested parties may contact:

Van Ryan L. Lee
817-82-11 / 816-1384
or send your resume to:
vanryanlee@corinthiancommercial.com.ph

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Block 4 Lot 6 Dahlia corner Segundo St.,
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Arabian Pearl Gulf School (APG) Bahrain is urgently in need of the following:

- Curriculum Planner
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  - knowledge of ABACUS, SABRE, GALILEO, AMADEUS will be an advantage
  - must have deep exp. w/ Tour and Holidays packages

Interested applicants must submit hard & soft copy of their resumé, recent 2x2 & 3R photo, school credentials, certificates and copy of passport, You may send your detailed resumé through email.

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Willing to work on a flexible schedule

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With at least 2 years work experience
Excellent written and oral communications skills

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
Must be a CPA with at least 2 years work experience

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JOB VACANCIES

Initiated by the Church, the **Pondo ng Pinoy**, a movement that aims to develop a Filipino culture rooted more deeply in love of God and neighbor and a community foundation that supports programs benefiting the poor, is looking for competent, committed and professional staff to fill the following positions:

Executive Director

Principal Tasks: Provides strategic leadership in pursuing the progmmatic direction of the Foundation that is consistent with its philosophy, vision and mission and in congruence with the direction set by the Board; responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Foundation.

Qualifications: Master's degree in Economics, Business management/ Administration, Development Management or related fields; at least 5 years in the management of similar organizations.

Program Coordinator

Principal Tasks: Project proposal generation appraisal; project documentation and database maintenance; project monitoring and evaluation; partnership/linkages development

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Social Development, Economics, Business Management or related fields; at least 3 years field experience in a similar position.

Finance Officer

Principal Tasks: Accounting, budget and internal audit functions of the foundation; assists in the treasury function

Qualifications: College degree in Accounting; must be a CPA, at least two years experience in a similar position

If you firmly believe that you have a calling to serve others and if you meet the qualifications for these positions, please send your resume with your latest picture on or before **February 13, 2006** to:

Pondo ng Pinoy Community Foundation, Inc.
Rm. 3, Caritas Bldg., 2002 Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
Or thru email address: pondo_ng_pinoy@yahoo.com

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Accounting graduate with initiative
- With 1-2 years work experience, below 30 years old
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- Graduate of BS/AB Psychology or other behavioral sciences
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- Male/Female, 27 to 34 years of age
- Computer literate, with good oral & written communication skills

(1) CUSTOMER SATISFACTION & RESEARCH DEV'T HEAD

- Graduate of any 4-year course, preferably Major in Marketing or any other related course
- Adept in current customer service practices
- Male/Female, 27 to 34 years of age
- At least 2 years supervisory experience in related field
- Computer literate with good oral & written communication skills

(4) CUSTOMER SATISFACTION & RESEARCH OFFICERS

- Graduate of any 4-year course, preferably Business or Marketing
- Customer Oriented
- With pleasing personality
- At least 2 yrs. Experience in related field
- Female; 22-27 years of age
- Computer literate with good oral & written communication skills

(2) TRAINING SUPERVISORS – TECHNICAL/SALES

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering or Automotive course
- Full knowledge of Automotive Technology
- Male; 27-34 years of age
- Must have at least 2 years of Sales Training / Technical Training or supervisory experience gained from an Automotive Company / School
- Has good communication, presentation, and leadership skills.

(3) SERVICE ADVISORS

- Graduate of Any Engineering Course or Automotive Course.
- Customer Oriented
- Male; 27-34 years of age
- Knowledgeable in Automotive Technology
- At least 1 to 2 years experience in Automotive Services in SA capacity
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Holder of Professional Driver's license

Interested applicants may send their resumé with recent 2x2 ID picture through Electronic-mail.
csrd_diamondmotor@yahoo.com
Or personally apply at
Human Resources Division
2nd floor, DMC Bldg.
Ortigas Ave. cor Roosevelt St.
Greenhills, San Juan
Applicants must come in business attire

COMPUTER PROJECT ASSISTANT

We are Philippine corporation that undertakes work for international organizations.

We require the service of a computer project assistant. The successful applicant should have the following qualifications:

- Excellent written and verbal English
- University or college graduate preferably with Journalism or a Communication Arts major in Writing degree
- No basic computer skills necessary but they would certainly be an advantage

Excellent benefits and working conditions are offered to the successful applicant. If you're interested in the above position, please write with details of your educational background and previous work experience.

Send to: **"Computer Project Assistant"**

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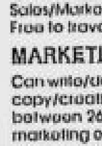
Email address:service@elitegrpmanage.com



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Can write/do it all to assist in Marketing, Sales, Advertising, Promotions, public relations, research, copy/creative writing, etc. with minimum supervision. Must be a natural hyperactive human between 264 to 312 full moons, taller than 66 inches with 2 to 3 yrs. working experience in a marketing environment. Must love the GOOD LIFE. A real go-getter when it comes to work. In simple words, JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF SOME. Free to travel here and abroad. Willing to work long hours when required.

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College Graduate with at least 2 years experience in sales of music and children CDs. To sell production music libraries to Radio/TV Stations, Film Production Companies, Ad Agencies, Jingle Producers and other corporate clients. Direct contact and dealings with the top music chains (Tower Records, Odyssey, M1 etc.) an advantage. Between 25-30 years old

Those who meet the above requirements may send in your resume with picture at **P.O. Box 455 Greenhills 1502** or email to empirent@pacific.net.ph Visit www.empiremultimedia.com

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FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT

Location: Makati

Requirements

- ✓ Graduate of BSC Major in Accountancy preferably a Certified Public Accountant
- ✓ Superior computer skills (MS Excel & MS PowerPoint)
- ✓ Good interpersonal and communication skills

Responsibilities

- Detailed analysis of cost center expenses versus budget.
- Provide monitoring tools (Marketing & Trade Expenses, Sales Reports to Nutrition key decision makers i.e. BU Controller, Brand Managers, Field Operations and Channel Sales
- Coordinate and process financial related transactions of the Nutrition Distributor handling Nutrition-specific channel accounts
- Prepare Nutrition monthly closing entries for booking by Corp. Accounting
- Will function as the SAP Super User for the Nutrition Business Unit

AREA NUTRITION HEAD

Location: Across the Philippines

Requirements

- ✓ Graduate of a 4-year Science/Medical-related course
- ✓ Above average interpersonal, communication, and presentation skills
- ✓ Excellent analytical, entrepreneurial, and negotiation skills
- ✓ At least 3 years experience as an Area Head in a nutritional, pharmaceutical industry or related field
- ✓ Proficiency with Windows programs, driving skills

Responsibilities

- Synthesize key facts and figures of the area and execute an integrated plan to achieve business objectives
- Identify and open new business opportunities
- Manage performance of Medical Delegates in the area

NUTRITION REPRESENTATIVES

Location: Across the Philippines

Requirements

- ✓ Graduate of any 4-year course preferably graduate of a science or medical-related course (Nutrition, Food Tech., Med Tech., Biology, PT, Nursing), with good scholastic records.
- ✓ Preferably with at least 1 year experience in promoting pharmaceuticals / ethical promotions.
- ✓ Superior interpersonal & communication skills, strong entrepreneurial skills, driving skills
- ✓ Action-solution oriented
- ✓ Can work well under pressure, Can work with minimal supervision
- ✓ Willing to take on provincial assignments
- ✓ Computer literate

Responsibilities

- Responsible for the detailing of Nestlé Infant Formula or HealthCare Nutrition products to Health Care Professionals.
- Major responsibilities: Promotional Responsibilities, Relationship Building, Territory Management, Customer Development, Market Intelligence

FIELD OPERATIONS MANAGER

Location: Across the Philippines

Requirements

- ✓ Graduate of a 4-year Science/Medical-related course (Nutrition, Food Tech., Medical Tech., Biology, PT, etc.)
- ✓ Above average interpersonal, communication, and presentation skills
- ✓ Excellent analytical, entrepreneurial, and negotiation skills
- ✓ At least 5 years experience as an Area Head in a nutritional, pharmaceutical industry or 2 years experience as a Field Operations Manager in a related field
- ✓ Proficiency with Windows programs, driving skills

Responsibilities

- Responsible for the management of Area Nutrition Heads and their direct reports in the assigned territory, & to ensure effective and ethical promotion of the Nutrition product range to Health Care Professionals
- Synthesizes key facts and figures of the area, as well as the key contact relationships to deliver and execute an integrated plan to achieve area objectives

Interested applicants are requested to send their resumes and Transcript of Records to P.O. Box 1556 MCPO, Makati City 1200. Indicate the position you're applying for in the envelope. You can also apply on-line at www.nestle.com.ph on or before 19 February 2006. Previous applicants need not apply.

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PROGRAM ASSISTANT

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) has a vacancy for **top caliber Program Assistant** to provide efficient and high-quality secretarial and administrative support to the Mindanao Trust Fund Secretariat. This position will be for two (2) year Co-terminous Term appointment, subject to one-year probationary period, with possibility of renewal. The appointment is co-terminous with the Program and maybe extended depending on availability of funds and continuation of the Program which is expected to be about five years. Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Provide primary assistance in the implementation of the unit's work program, including some specialized support in specific areas, e.g. task management, simple financial management, procurement, database management, information technology, editorial assistance, etc.
- Identify and resolve diverse issues/problems as they arise, which often requires interpretation of existing procedures and processes and independently determining the appropriate application.
- Suggest ways to enhance work organization and effectiveness.
- Exercise quality enhancement function for project and other documents by ensuring adherence to departmental, VPU and institutional guidelines.
- Participate in developing project/product time lines, using appropriate software.
- Attend meetings, draft minutes and ensure timely clearance and distribution.
- Serve as an information resource on status of project/products (e.g. procurement, disbursement, audit, trust fund/co-financing, and legal issues) and drafts a variety of standard project-related correspondence.
- Monitor task budget/trust funds for specific projects on behalf of the team.
- Undertake ad hoc inquiries in standard and non-standard databases, retrieves, manipulates and presents data.
- Assist the Coordinator in organizing the team's work effectively, and in work program and travel schedule coordination.
- Organize mission work and schedule of the team and visiting staff members whenever they are part of the team's mission.
- Respond effectively to information requests from external clients and partners, and from other units within the Bank where and as appropriate.
- Participate in mission field work as required.
- Mentor less experienced staff.
- Maintain up to date work unit project and other files.
- Other related tasks as may be assigned by the Secretariat Coordinator and the Task Team Leader.

Selection criteria:

- College degree in any relevant field.
- Excellent interpersonal skills. Ability to deal sensitively with people and situations in multi-cultural environments and build effective working relations with clients and colleagues, and a willingness to learn new skills and seek help from colleagues when necessary.
- Proven ability to work in team environment, and to share knowledge and information effectively
- Excellent organizational and problem-solving skills. Sound judgment.
- Ability to deal with rapidly shifting priorities and work demands, and to share knowledge and information effectively.
- Accuracy and focused application in detail work.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and Filipino.
- Client service orientation, responsiveness, drive for results and a proactive attitude to work.
- High level of proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Database program) and adept in using the Internet/Intranet. Experience with SAP and Lotus Notes will be an advantage:
- Thorough working knowledge of general office procedures, machines and equipment; and
- Minimum seven (7) years experience in secretarial and administrative work, preferably with high ranking officials.

The World Bank offers a competitive compensation package based on the local market, and attractive medical and pension plans.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than **February 17, 2006**. **Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.** Send the above to.

The Human Resource Officer
P.O. Box 300 c/o Classified Ads, Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Building B, SM Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City

The **Transnational Diversified Group (TDG)** is a Philippine-based conglomerate of dynamic and forward-looking corporations engaged in widely diverse businesses such as Total Logistics, Transportation, Shipping & Cargo Forwarding, Warehousing & Distribution, Ship Management, Maritime E-Training, Medical Services, Travel & Tours, Airline GSA, Aviation Services, Pre-Need Plans, Securities & Investments, Real Estate Development, IT & Business Process Outsourcing Services, E-Business Solutions, and related businesses.

We are looking for highly-motivated and top-caliber individuals to join our expanding organization.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGERS

- ➢ Candidates must be graduates of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Industrial Engineering or any business or HR - related course
- ➢ With at least five (5) years relevant work experience in organizational development, recruitment, labor and employee relations, performance rewards and remuneration, benefits administration, HR systems and employee development
- ➢ Must have excellent leadership and people skills
- ➢ Highly proficient in verbal and written communication
- ➢ Proficient in MS Office applications

SENIOR HR OFFICERS

- ➢ Candidates must be graduates of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Industrial Engineering or any business-related course
- ➢ With at least three (3) years relevant work experience as an HR Specialist (training and organizational development, compensation and benefits management, or recruitment and selection)
- ➢ Must have excellent people skills and be a good team player
- ➢ Highly proficient in verbal and written communication
- ➢ Proficient in MS Office applications

HR OFFICERS

- ➢ Candidates must be graduates of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Industrial Engineering or any business-related course
- ➢ With at least two (2) years relevant work experience as an HR Generalist (recruitment, training, payroll and benefits administration, employee and labor relations)
- ➢ Must have excellent people skills and be a good team player
- ➢ Highly proficient in verbal and written communication
- ➢ Proficient in MS Office applications

SENIOR/JUNIOR AUDITORS

- ➢ Candidates must be CPAs
- ➢ With at least two (2) years related work experience, preferably in financial, systems and tax audit, or business process review
- ➢ Must be organized, systematic, results-oriented, can work with minimum supervision, and be a good team player
- ➢ Must have high integrity and good judgment skills
- ➢ Highly proficient in verbal and written communication
- ➢ Must have working knowledge of MS Office applications
- ➢ Willing to work on extended hours and outside Metro Manila

ACCOUNTANTS / ACCOUNTING STAFF

- ➢ Candidates must be CPAs (for Accountants) or graduates of Accounting, Banking & Finance or any related course (for Accounting Staff)
- ➢ Must be organized, systematic and can work with minimum supervision
- ➢ Must have good people skills and be a team player
- ➢ Proficient in verbal and written communication
- ➢ Proficient in MS Excel and must have working knowledge of other MS Office applications

TRAVEL COUNSELORS / ASSOCIATES

- ➢ Candidates must be college graduates, preferably of Tourism or its equivalent
- ➢ With at least one (1) year relevant experience with a travel agency/ airline/ GSA
- ➢ Must have knowledge in basic fare computations, ticketing and travel servicing
- ➢ Must have excellent communication, people and customer service skills
- ➢ Proficient in Microsoft Office applications and preferably in the Amadeus system

SALES / MARKETING OFFICERS / ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- ➢ Candidates must be college graduates, preferably of Marketing, Management or any business-related course
- ➢ Logistics or travel industry experience an advantage
- ➢ Must have excellent people and customer service skills
- ➢ Must be dynamic, creative and a good team player
- ➢ Highly proficient in verbal and written communications
- ➢ Must know how to drive and must have a driver's license
- ➢ Must have working knowledge of MS applications
- ➢ 22-30 years old

DOCUMENTATION STAFF / PROCESSORS

- ➢ Candidates must be college graduates, preferably of Customs Administration
- ➢ With at least six (6) months relevant work experience
- ➢ Must have good communication skills
- ➢ Experience in forwarding or customs brokering an advantage

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANTS

- ➢ Candidates must be college graduates
- ➢ With at least six (6) months relevant work experience
- ➢ Must have excellent people and customer service skills
- ➢ Proficient in verbal and written communication
- ➢ Experience in forwarding or customs brokerage an advantage

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE STAFF

- ➢ Candidates must be college graduates, preferably of Electrical Engineering or its equivalent
- ➢ Preferably with at least one (1) year relevant work experience, but fresh graduates are welcome
- ➢ Must have good communication skills
- ➢ Male

DRIVERS

- ➢ At least one (1) year relevant work experience
- ➢ Must have a professional driver's license
- ➢ Male, 21-35 years old

Attractive compensation package, developmental opportunities, rewards and recognition programs, insurance and healthcare programs await successful candidates.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resumé with 2 pcs. 2x2 recent ID photos on or before Friday, 17 February 2006 to.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
TRANSNATIONAL DIVERSIFIED GROUP, INC.
2/F Mary Bachrach Bldg , cor. 25th & A C Delgado Sts., Port Area, Manila
(Behind the Manila Hotel)
Tel. No. 527-8888 or email us at hrd@tdgworld.com

WANTED SURVEYOR

Surveyor/Instrument man, not more than 30 years old, at least 3 years experience in surveying, set-out of references and control points, levels and profiles Preferably experienced in survey of buildings and site development, and proficient in CAD, knowledge in using Total Station an advantage

Submit resumé to 9574 F. Yabut Circle, Kalayaan Ave., Guadalupe, Makati or fax to 7525347

WANTED CAD OPERATOR

Architecture graduates, not more than 30 years old; proficient in CAD; knowledge in computer rendering an advantage.

Submit resumé to 9574 F. Yabut Circle, Kalayaan Ave., Guadalupe, Makati or fax to 7525347

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JOB Market ONLINE

EOB

Experience: success!

Get connected to a global organization with a career at West Contact Services, Inc. We are a subsidiary of US-based West Corporation with several contact centers located throughout North America, Europe and Asia and are looking for dynamic, self-motivated individuals who demand results.

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Now Hiring:

- **Customer Service Representatives**
- **Bilingual Agents** (Spanish/English)

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Why Choose West?

- Competitive pay
- Choose your own schedule; flexible full- and part-time opportunities
- Excellent advancement opportunities
- Fun work environment

Guaranteed base wage increases every six months for agent positions!

Excellent English oral and written communication skills required.

Apply Now:

West Contact Services, Inc. • 28/F Exportbank Plaza
Don Chino Roces cor Sen. Gil Puyat, Makati

Phone: 857-7400 • Fax: 857-7431/32
Email: MakatiJobs@west.com

west®

westemployment.com

World Vision Development Foundation – Philippines

World Vision

World Vision Development Foundation is a Christian, non-profit, humanitarian organization, committed to the holistic transformational development, relief and rehabilitation, working for the well being of people, especially children, throughout the Philippines. World Vision Development Foundation works in partnership with World Vision International consisting of over 100 offices around the world. We are looking for a Christian professional whose faith and values match our mission with the poor for the following position:

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR who will be responsible for conceptualizing, planning, implementing and coordinating all communications and media program of the organization and will serve as one of the key persons in strategically positioning World Vision on matters affecting poor children, their families and communities.

The candidate must likely to have:

- A University/College degree or equivalent experience required; master's degree preferred in Communications, Journalism, Development Communications or any related field
- At least 3 years of broad and deep experience in tri-media at managerial level (Samples of published work will be required for submission.)
- Proven competency in the areas of media, government, corporate, and public relations
- Has leadership/coaching mindset and skills
- Well abreast in current corporate communications trends and practices
- Excellent communication skills, both in written and oral, in English language
- Able to use with proficiency MS office applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Adobe, etc.)
- Willing to travel in remote areas and in disaster areas
- Has strong Christian commitment and willing to work in ecumenical setting, preferably involved actively in church ministry

FUNDRAISING STAFF who will be primarily responsible to man the World Vision's Sponsorship booth and to recruit prospective donors and/or sponsors in 24 shopping malls nationwide from March 1-31, 2006.

Qualified candidates may send their letter of application and comprehensive resume' with picture detailing work history to: lizbeth_quevedo@wvi.org or write to WORLD VISION DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, c/o Human Resources Department (Attn: Lizbeth B. Quevedo/Theresa Ramos), 883 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, 1104

IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

SALES COORDINATOR

- The candidate shall handle sales inquiries and manage the store operations

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- The candidate shall prepare artwork requirements using Coreldraw 12 and Photoshop.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate, preferably with work experience, honest and must be able to work with minimum supervision.
- Willing to work at SM Mall of Asia.
- Above minimum wage and generous compensation package for those who qualify.

Send resumè to: **JAY C. DESIGNS, INC.**
142 Road 3, Pagasa, Q.C.
Tel.: 927-1776, 928-7074, 929-7479 Fax: 927-1508
e-mail: jaycdesigns@pacific.net.ph or jay_c_designs@pldtdsl.net

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A reputable Law Firm is urgently in need of

Accounting Staff

Qualifications:

- Accounting Graduate
- Computer Literate
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Hardworking, diligent
- Attentive to details

Please send resume with picture and transcript of scholastic records to:
The 16th Flr. Strata 2000 Bldg., F Ortigas, Jr. Road (formerly Emerald Ave.) Ortigas Center, Pasig City
E-mail : **rbkmlaw@rbkmlaw.com**
Fax. No. : 6319530

FLIP GEAR, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

- **Marketing Manager**
- **Sales Executive**
  - w/ 3 to 5 yrs. relevant experience
  - willing to work for a dynamic new RTW Company

Interested Applicants may send resumé w/ photo thru e-mail or to:
2404-C, East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange
Centre Condominium
Exchange Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
e-mail flipgearcomptr@yahoo.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

INNOVATIVE HOTEL & RESTAURANT STUDIES

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FOR LAND BASED HOTEL ABROAD & INTERNATIONAL CRUISELINES

DINING ROOM WAITERS | WAITRESSES | BAR WAITER | BAR WAITRESSES | WINE STEWARDS | BARTENDERS CHEFS | GALLEY & KITCHEN STEWARDS | MESSMAN | ROOM ATTENDANTS | CHAIMBERMAIDS | CABIN STEWARDS | RECEPTIONIST | FRONTDESK ATTENDANTS

PACKAGES INCLUDE:

5 or 10 days training w/certificate
Hand-out
T-shirt *(Uniform)*
OJT Assistance/Practicum Assistance
Documentations Assistance
(BSC, Seaman's Book, Crowd & Crisis Management, COC, Passport)
PBL Membership Assistance
Successful Interview Seminar (SIS)
Employment Assistance
(Local Employment, Land Based Hotel Abroad and International Cruise Lines)

Basic Integrated Course | Basic Waitering | Basic Housekeeping | Basic Bartending | Basic Culinary and soon Basic Front Office Management Personality Development | Successful Interview Seminar | Advance Flaring | Specialized Culinary Class and more

TRAIN AND WORK RIGHT AWAY !!!

IHRS is in need of office staff:

- Account Officers
- Customer Sales Representative
- Senior/On Call Trainers
- Facilitator

Please apply personally with your resume.
IHRS 2nd Floor Music Factory Bldg., #1939 Taft Avenue Malate, Manila
Monday to Saturday from 9AM to 4PM.

WANTED

COUNTRY MANAGER

- Min. 2-3 yrs. Experience in previous Network Marketing Comp. in similar position.
- Min. Degree in Business Management of Marketing
- Willing to work independently
- Knowledgeable in Computer, Networking & Office administrations.

Interested applicant pls email kgjob@yahoo.com

IMMEDIATE HIRING

(2) SALES LADIES
- with knowledge in Computer and pleasing personality

(1) WEB DESIGNER/DEVELOPER
- with knowledge in Photoshop, Flash, html, php, mysql

www.isave.com.ph

Submit comprehensive resume' at

#168 Mindanao Ave., Bahay Toro, Quezon City
Tel. No. 928-8260

MEKENI FOOD CORPORATION is a 'AAA' meat processing plant based at Balubad, Porac, Pampanga. It was given recognition as the **"Best Meat Procesing Plant" in the Philippines for CY 2004 and CY 2005**, an honor considered the ultimate and most sought after award in the meat processing industry. In this line, we are inviting top-notch individual who can be part of our dynamic organization and massive expansion...

(1) EMD MANAGER (Code: EMD)

- ☐ Male, not more than 35 years old
- ☐ Graduate of Mechanical/Electrical Engineering or equivalent
- ☐ 3-5 years supervisory experience in utilities environment, specialized in food processing plant
- ☐ Detailed knowledge in preventive maintenance systems installation and implementation
- ☐ Adequate written and oral communication skills

(33) SALES REPRESENTATIVE (Code: SR)

(Wet Market, Key Account Specialist, H.R.I. - F.S. Accounts)

- ☐ Male/Female, not more than 35 years old
- ☐ College graduate, adequate written and oral communication skills
- ☐ Can work with all levels of the organization
- ☐ With valid drivers license and adequate driving experience is an advantage
- ☐ With experience in sales, preferably in the same industry, enjoys fieldwork, with good record, capable of making effective target market and analyze customer needs

(7) AREA SALES MANAGER (Code: ASM)

- ☐ Male/Female, not more than 40 years old
- ☐ College graduate, adequate written and oral communication skills
- ☐ With valid drivers license and adequate driving experience is an advantage
- ☐ Must have 2 years work experience as sales manager, preferably in the same industry, possess good analytical skills and record, result oriented and capable in expanding accounts

For qualified applicants, our company offers above industry compensation, commission, car plan, travel opportunities and continuous professional growth.

Interested individuals may submit their comprehensive resumé not later than February 28, 2006 to:

NCR Office:
#54 Matahimik St., Teachers Village, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 434-8143
Telefax No.: (02) 927-4692

Main Office:
Balubad, Porac, Pampanga C-2008
Tel. No.: (045) 963-4412
(045) 963-9027 & 31
E-mail: hrd@mekeni.com

Visit www.MEKENI.com for more details

JOB Market

VISIT US AT:
www.jobmarketonline.com

FULL-TIME SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Female, 22-42 years old, college graduate, previous experience with a food distribution company a plus.

Email resumé to pinkanemone210@yahoo.com / Fax resumé to 8106449 / Text availability for interview at (63917) 5084031

JOB OFFER IMMEDIATE HIRING

We are going to open Casino for foreign players at a luxury hotel in Pasay City very soon. We need the following workers who are willing to work hard with us:

Executive Secretary : Female

- Not over 28 years old with a pleasing personality, good moral character.
- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in any Business-related course.
- Must have at least two (2) years experience as executive assistant and secretary.
- Proficient English written and oral communication skills
- Excellent MS office (Word, Excel and Power Point).

Accounting Staff : Female

- Not over 30 years old with a good moral character
- Must be an Accounting Graduates from a reputable University or College.
- Must have at least two (2) years experience in bookkeeping and the related accounting work.
- Good English written and oral communication skills.
- Excellent MS office (Word, Excel and Power Point).

Cashiers : Female

- Not over 30 years old with a good moral character.
- Minimum High School graduate.
- Must have at least one (1) year experience as a cashier.
- Proficient English written and oral communication skills.
- Computer literate.

Receptionists : Female

- Not over 28 years old with a pleasing personality, good moral character.
- Minimum High School graduate.
- Preferably with working experience as receptionist.
- Have a Good English written and oral communication skills.
- Must be at least 5'2" height.

Drivers

- Not over 40 years old.
- At least Five (5) years professional driving experience.
- Preferably with Good English oral communication skills

Send your resumé via email or fax
Email) parthenon.casino@gmail.com or Fax 02)833-1506

Please indicate in your resumé the position you're applying for.

PARTHENON, INC.,

IMMEDIATE HIRING

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- Graduate of a 4-year business related course
- With at least 2 years Supervisory or Management experience

COMPANY AUDITOR

- Male
- Accountancy Graduate
- Auditing and/or Accounting experience is a plus

MIS PROGRAMMER

- Knowledgeable in Programming using Visual Basic 6.0
- Knowledgeable/has experience in SQL Server 2000 Database Mgt.
- Experienced in Computer Trouble Shooting and Maintenance

LICENSED PHARMACIST

- Graduate from a reputable school
- With at least 1 year working experience

Interested applicants may send/fax or hand-carry their resumé at:

Company E Corporation
110 Kalayaan Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
HRD - TeleFax No. 434-5718 / 922-3442 Cell # 0915-4604034

PNTC Colleges

4F Isabel Bldg. 870
España St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tel. No (02)7317857

Zone III, Lt. Cantimbuhan St.,
Poblacion Dasmariñas, Cavite
(046)4162584, (046)4165111

Is now accepting applications for the following:

MARITIME INSTRUCTORS

- Graduate of BS Marine Engineering / BS Marine Transportation
- With at least Operational or Management level license
- With shipboard experience (dry cargo, container, oil/ chemical or liquefied gas tankers, passenger vessels
- With teaching experience and holder of IMO Model Course 6.09
- Willing to be assigned in Dasmariñas, Cavite

INSTRUCTORS FOR MEDICAL COURSES

- Graduate of BS Nursing/ BS Medicine
- Registered Nurse/ Licensed Physician
- With teaching experience and holder of IMO Model Course 6.09

DOCUMENT & DATA CONTROL CUSTODIAN

- Computer science graduate or any related course
- With at least 6 months work experience in the same field
- Knowledgeable with ISO/TQM/ Quality Management Systems

SECRETARY

- BSE or AB graduate
- With at least 6 months work experience on the same field
- Willing to work in Dasmariñas, Cavite

Interested parties may email applications at **philnautical@pntc.com.ph** or mail/ personally submit their resume, 2x2 photo, transcript of records and other credentials to: HRD 4/F Isabel Bldg. 870 España St. Sampaloc Manila

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MINERAL EXPLORATION

An Australia based mineral exploration company is currently seeking applicants for the following positions to work on a PGE/Nickel/Chromite project in Zambales.

SENIOR EXPLORATION GEOLOGIST

- 10 + yrs. project exploration experience in metals.
- Underground exploration experience an advantage, but not necessary.
- The ability to carry out and help develop an overall exploration strategy.
- The maturity to work in a diverse cultural environment and carry out supervisory roles

EXPLORATION GEOLOGIST

- 5 + yrs. project exploration experience in metals.
- Underground exploration experience an advantage, but not necessary.
- The ability to work as part of a team with a common goal

SURVEYOR

- Experienced in field surveys over rugged terrain.
- An up-to-date knowledge of computer surveying programs.
- Underground experience preferable

Applicants should be in good physical condition to accomplish field oriented work.

Basic computer literacy in GIS would be an advantage.

Inquiries and applications should be directed to

KINLOCH RESOURCES LTD.
Regional Headquarters, NCR
Attn: Mr. Michael Spadafora (General Manager)
Telefax: 721-8587
E-mail: spad2@pldtdsl.net

ALORICA
Philippines

care to TAKE A SEAT?

WE HAVE 400 OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Apply for the following positions:
Technical Support Representative (TSR)
Customer Interaction Specialist (CIS)

THIS IS FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Bring your resume and a 2x2 picture to
5th Floor of Emerald Building,
F. Ortigas, Jr. Ave (formerly Emerald Ave.),
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
February 6 - February 10 from 9 am - 5 pm
or email to
recruitment@manila.alorica.net

PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

-A foreign assistance organization has an immediate need for a **PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST**. The successful candidate will serve as Project Specialist for activities related to international trade and domestic commerce, as well as those that enhance the competitiveness of specific economic sectors of the Philippines. He/She must be a professional level employee who can provide assistance and serve as advisor to senior-level staff in the development, management, and evaluation of various projects related to economic growth and democratic governance activities. The candidate must have a solid understanding of the country's economic, political, social and cultural situation and must have working knowledge of the Philippine government's operational procedures. He/She must be an experienced professional with demonstrated expertise in economics and in management of highly visible activities with coverage through out the Philippines. Must have the ability to represent the organization in dealings with senior government officials.

Possession of a Bachelor's Degree in Economics or any related field in development assistance is required. Completion of a Master's Degree is desirable. Six to eight years of professional level experience in the indicated field of specialization is essential. Background in drawing up contract scopes of work and managing contractors is preferred. Must have excellent command of English language, both written and spoken. An understanding of a foreign assistance organization's development perspective is an advantage. Excellent human relations, interpersonal and teamwork skills are required to establish and maintain contacts with high-level officials of the national and local government, the organization's contractors, sub-contractors and grantees. Must be proficient in the use of computers.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, supplementary retirement plan are offered.

Application letter with 2x2 photo and comprehensive resumé must be received **no later than February 10, 2006**.

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

HIRING IMMEDIATELY

1) SECTOR MANAGERS / SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGERS

- at least 5 to 10 year experience in IT Sales
- must have ready customer portfolio in the TELCO, BANKING, MANUFACTURING and EDUCATION sectors
- analytical and gives attention to details
- preferably with knowledge in Data Security and Next Generation Networks
- excellent communications and interpersonal skills

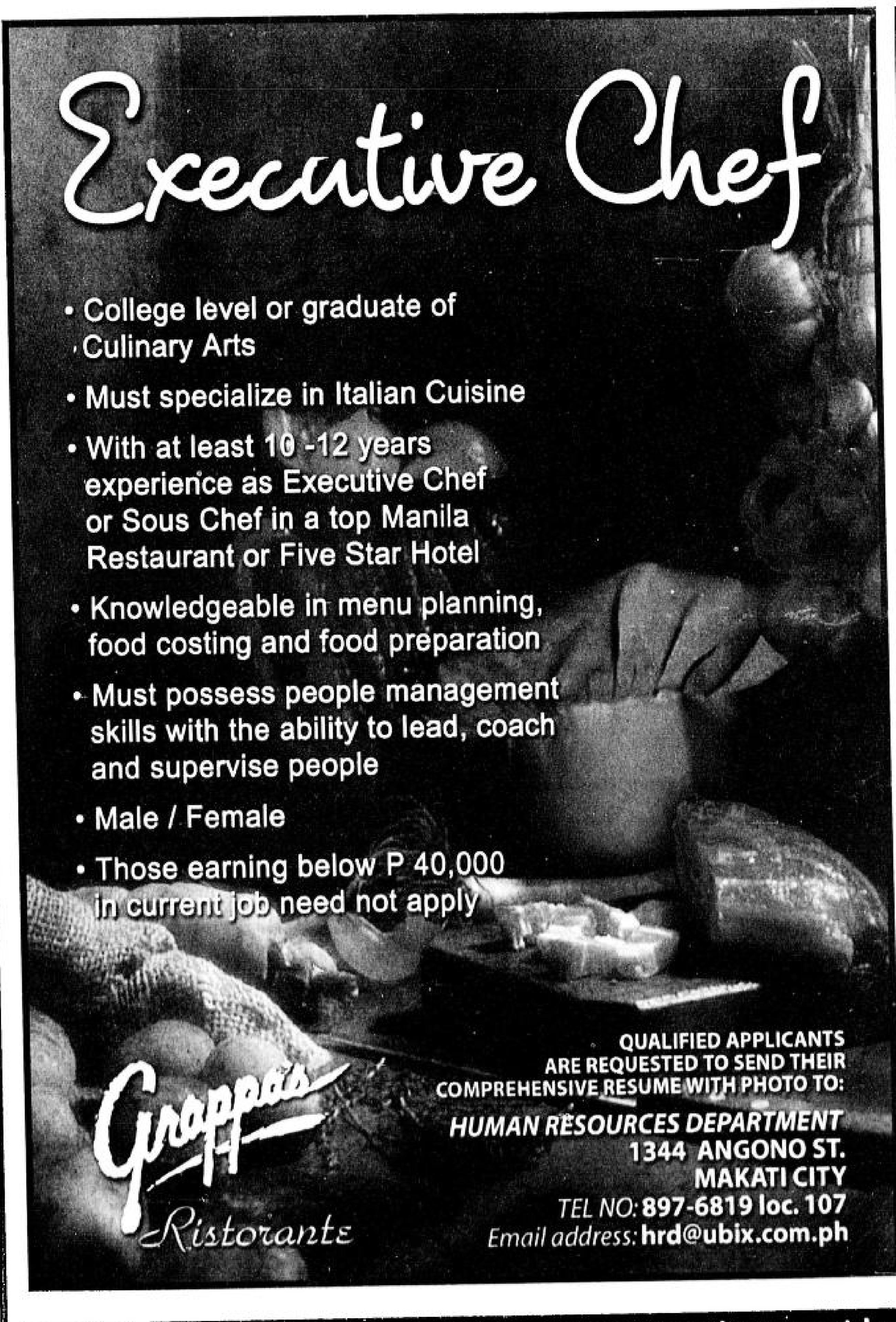
2) PRODUCT MANAGER

- must have 3 year product development with brand management experience gained from a reputable telecommunications or IT company.
- will be responsible in handling pricing, inventory and promotions
- coordinates with principles on sales forecasts and projections
- excellent communications and interpersonal skills

"We offer high salary for successful candidates"

INTERNATIONAL eBIZ TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Unit 402 ANSA 2 Bldg., 1070 Chino Roces Avenue,
cor. Montojo St., Makati City
Tel. # 757 3393
email : info@ebiztech.biz
Contact person : Ms. Jeng Ponciano
09209100416

e-Biz Tech

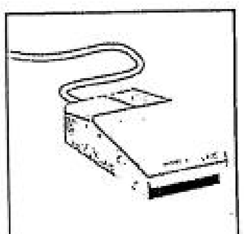


Executive Chef

- College level or graduate of Culinary Arts
- Must specialize in Italian Cuisine
- With at least 10 -12 years experience as Executive Chef or Sous Chef in a top Manila Restaurant or Five Star Hotel
- Knowledgeable in menu planning, food costing and food preparation
- Must possess people management skills with the ability to lead, coach and supervise people
- Male / Female
- Those earning below P 40,000 in current job need not apply

Grappas
Ristorante

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS
ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR
COMPREHENSIVE RESUME WITH PHOTO TO:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
1344 ANGONO ST.
MAKATI CITY
TEL NO: **897-6819 loc. 107**
Email address: **hrd@ubix.com.ph**



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JOB Market

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Text us your feedback: inquirer paw name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

How do you get the most out of a positive performance review?

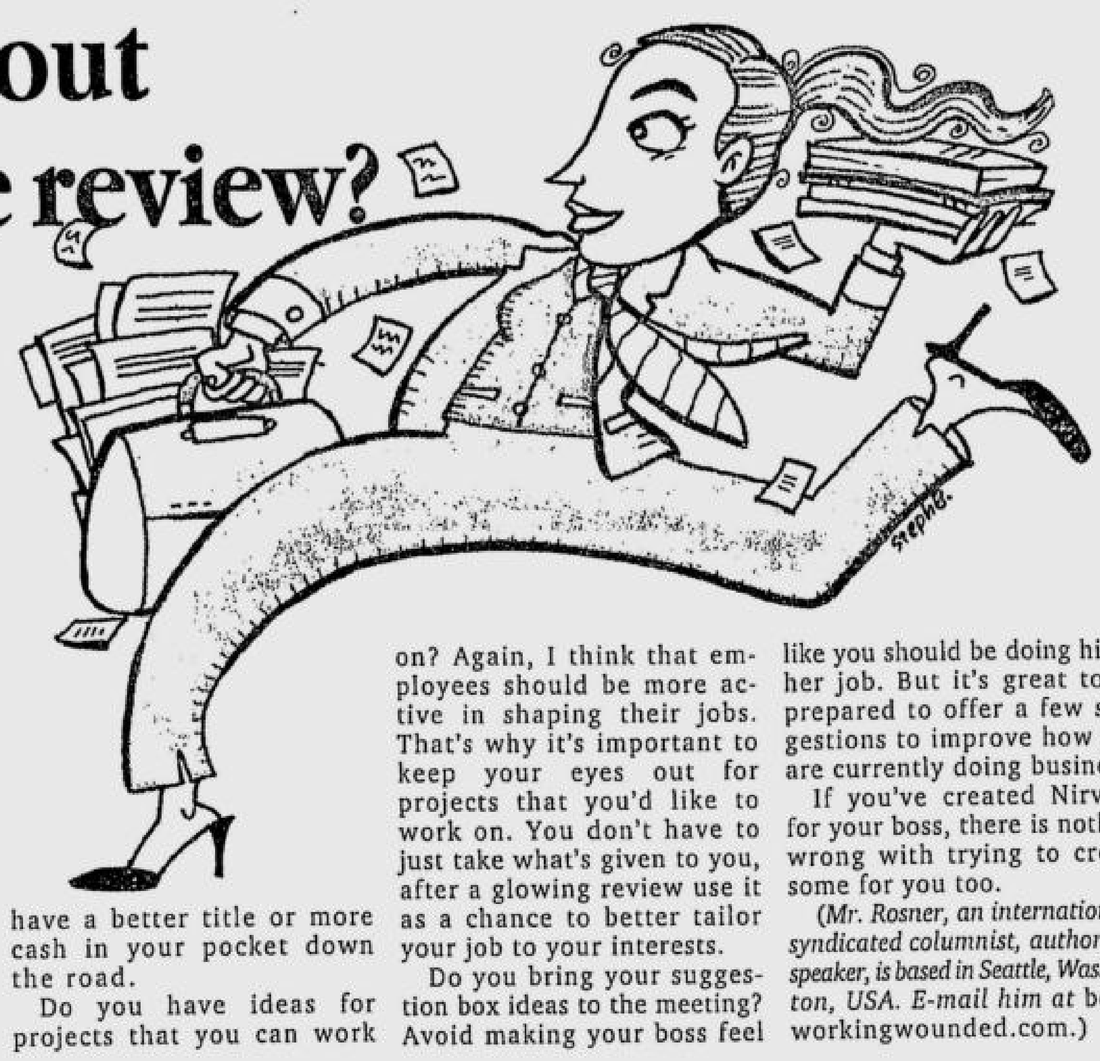

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

DEAR WW: I THINK I'M DOING a pretty good job. I've got my performance review coming up and I'm curious about strategies that I can follow to get the most out of it.

Positive Review

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

I recently went to see a Buddhist scholar. He was practical and funny, not at all the guy I thought he'd be. He really captured my attention when he talked about Nirvana (the place, not the band), a place of true happiness.

It is always smart to be prepared to defend yourself if your review turns negative. At the same time, if you think your boss will be complimentary, you should have a plan for creating your own little Nirvana at work. I've outlined some strategies to do this below. For more, check out "Lifescripts" by Pollan and Levine (Wiley, 2004).

Do you stress how much you love your job? Bosses like to hear that people are happy in their jobs. Tell 'em.

Are you prepared to discuss what you don't like about your job? If the review is going really well, it can be a great chance to talk about the aspects of your job that you are less than thrilled about. Just don't forget to bring along a solution for every problem that you identify.

Are you prepared to ask for a raise or promotion? I can't tell you how many people have written to me through the years who got a raise or promotion simply because they asked for it. Good things don't always come to people who wait. If your boss gives you a glowing review ask for something in return.

If your boss responds negatively to a raise or promotion, do you have a plan of how you'll respond? I'm a big believer in following rejection with a simple question; exactly what would I have to accomplish to get a raise or a promotion down the line? See if you can get your boss to give you specific targets that you can shoot for. The more specific you can get him or her to be, the higher the odds that you'll have a better title or more cash in your pocket down the road.

Do you have ideas for projects that you can work on? Again, I think that employees should be more active in shaping their jobs. That's why it's important to keep your eyes out for projects that you'd like to work on. You don't have to just take what's given to you, after a glowing review use it as a chance to better tailor your job to your interests.

Do you bring your suggestion box ideas to the meeting? Avoid making your boss feel like you should be doing his or her job. But it's great to be prepared to offer a few suggestions to improve how you are currently doing business.

If you've created Nirvana for your boss, there is nothing wrong with trying to create some for you too.

(*Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

How to be an effective first-time supervisor

I HAVE BEEN RECENTLY PROMOTED to shift supervisor in a large multinational manufacturing company. Prior to that, I was an operator who acted as team leader among 10 co-employees. I didn't have any training or experience as a supervisor before my promotion.

Although my boss, the production manager, seems supportive of me, I can feel the pressure of greater expectations from my superiors. On the other hand, my teammates seem to expect me to be the same peer they used to have.

I feel that I have very little or no authority at all to make things happen on the shop floor. Whenever I am in the night shift, I have no superiors to check with if my actions as supervisor are correct.

Please give me some tips on how to be effective as a supervisor by properly using my authority to get things done through my subordinates.

New Supervisor

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

First, congratulations on your promotion.

It is common for newly promoted supervisors or managers to feel apprehensive about not knowing what the new job requires. Of course, you have your job description, but it usually doesn't tell you everything you must or can do. At best, it will remind you of your key results areas where you are expected to deliver a minimum level of performance—below which level you can lose your career.

Let us discuss "authority" of your position. To many people, authority vested in a position is the basis for "command and control" over subordinates. To them, authority is their badge to tell others what to do and how to do it. Authority is likened to the ability to influence others to get things done.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Real authority

As your bosses might tell you, every position in an organization is usually vested with authority to perform or make decisions on certain matters affecting the job. Varying levels of positions have different levels of authority—as can be gleaned from company policies. But in reality, no one is ever given completely clear and ample authority to take actions that are necessary to get the job done in all circumstances.

Great leaders will tell you that the real authority does not come from the formal authority vested in a position. You really don't have much leadership if the only reason that people follow you is because of your position. More often, the real authority is earned over the years as one proves equal to the tasks he or she is given.

Real authority comes with success in what one does. It also comes with the reputation that one develops as he goes about doing his work and touching the lives of others. It is small wonder that an employee is considered an authority on "troubleshooting on the line" even if he is not the top manufacturing or technical person.

Better assumed than given

A job description or company policy cannot always anticipate or contemplate every possible circumstance in the operation of the company. It is, therefore, very seldom that a newly promoted manager or supervisor can get complete and accurate delegation of authority.

It is for this reason, therefore, that authority is better assumed. As you perform your job as supervisor, you need to pursue the best interests of the company. At times, your authority to perform or make decisions will only be guided by what is in the best interest of your organization. The more you take the initiative to make decisions for the best interest of the company, the greater the leeway you will be granted to take even greater initiative in your job.

Delegating upwards

Delegating upwards—i.e., to one's boss—is a common mistake made by managers and supervisors when confronted with hazy situations involving authority. You can ask your boss once in a while when you doubt having the authority to make decisions on certain matters. However, asking your boss to do what you are supposed to do will not speak well of your competence, leadership ability or managerial potential.

Most bosses appreciate knowing what's happening in their subordinate's area, but the more effective ones manage by exception. For the most part of your work, you should show more self-sufficiency, initiative and even risk-taking at times. It is definitely annoying for a boss to be doing the work of his subordinate, especially if his subordinate is a manager or a supervisor.

Encroachment

On the other hand, it is not good to usurp your boss' authority or encroach on a territory that is clearly his and his alone. For instance, company policy usually allows a supervisor to recommend approval of his subordinates' leaves or salary increase. If your authority is limited to recommending, then just leave the approval up to your boss. Unless the authority is delegated to you, never encroach on areas that solely belong to your boss.

Unpleasant surprises

Bosses do not like unpleasant surprises. Keeping your boss informed about your actions or decisions on nonroutine matters is always praiseworthy. But, you must

HOW/P.11★★★

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'I want to succeed as project manager!'

By Tita Datu Puangco

I HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH a project in our company that is relatively huge in size. It is my first time to manage a project. Before, I was assigned to simply be a member of project teams. I want to succeed as project manager. I think it is a make or break project for me. With my team, I have painstakingly put together the project concept, did a job breakdown analysis and assign responsibilities. Does attention to the planning guarantee success for this project? What else do I have to do?

Anxious Project Manager

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

Congratulations! You have hurdled the first step. You have conscientiously put together the project management plan. This is a step in the right direction. But you are right, successful execution requires two more ingredients. One, the project plan ensures that people do the right things. Then, make sure that people behave in ways that ensure success and finally create the right culture and environment.

You project plan has defined the right tasks and things to do. What is important now is to use what we have learned over the years about behavioral science to assist us. We know that the key to successful implementation, aside from having a sound strategy and process, is behavior, the great enabler.

A number of questions you can ask yourself are: What are the vital behaviors of people who report to you that will make project successful? What will trigger said behaviors? These triggers can be a meeting, a discussion, a policy or a launch. Then finally, what consequences would people experience as a result of their behaviors? Consequences can either positively or negatively reinforce behaviors. Positive reinforcement would encourage the person to repeat the behavior and negative reinforcement can discourage undesired behavior.

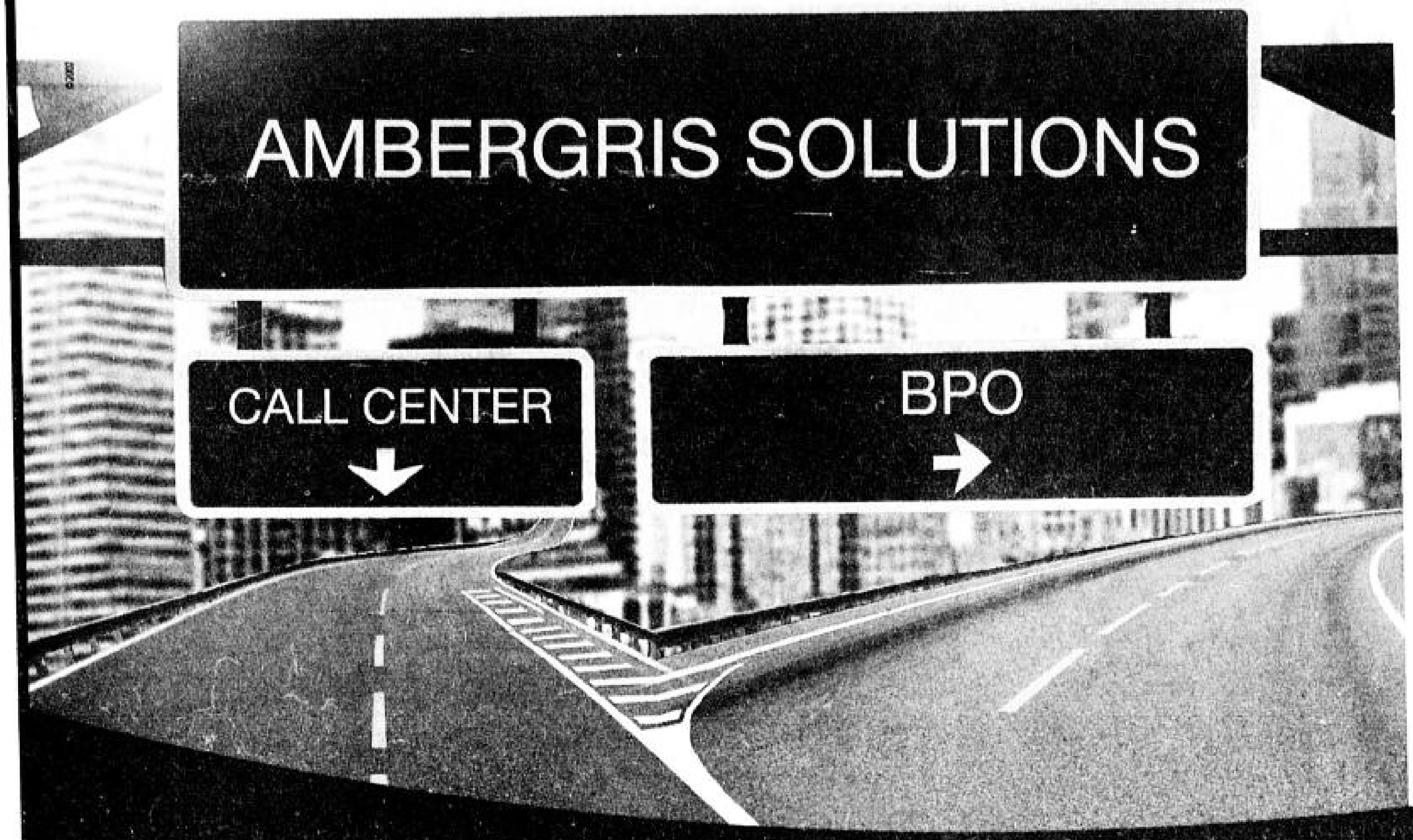
The third component of success is creating the right environment. The project leader can do this by enhancing his or own personal charisma, learn motivation techniques and undertake in a continuing basis relevant and memorable project communications.

You may ask, can charisma be learned? I know many people who are very competent but do not seem to inspire and communicate with people. While the overall notion is that a person is naturally charismatic or not, research has shown there are behaviors that characterize charismatic people. Some of these are they smile a lot, they are decisive, enthusiastic, possess strong beliefs and ideas among others.

Then, let us discuss the issue of motivation. What motivates people? A key factor is engagement. Engagement comes from the ability of the leader to connect with the other person and kindle in him or her a great desire to make the vision a reality. Motivation also comes from constantly reminding people of the rationale and the spirit behind the project, celebrating success, measuring results frequently, continuous learning and getting an outsider to compliment the team.

Finally, on the importance of project communications. Two things I relearned recently. Today's generation is highly visual. So well thought through highly visual rather than simply verbal communication has greater impact in the workplace. Spend time planning your communications. Two, what makes

'I WANT/P.11★★★



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REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

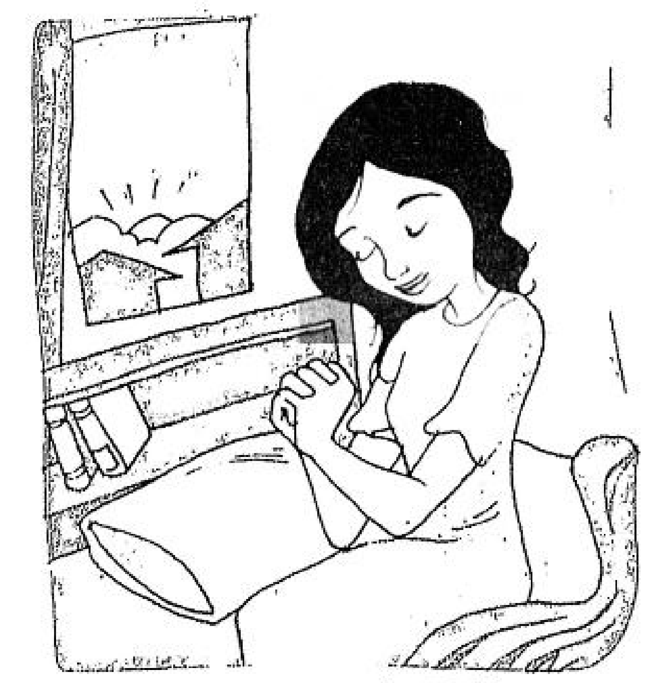
A deserted place

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

I CAN NEVER OVERSTRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYING as a way to begin a working day, because I know from experience that it really works. However you understand the word "prayer" hardly matters. People call or see it in the form they consider most valid or heartfelt. The important thing is it begins your day—whether you repeat a mantra, pray the rosary, do transcendental meditation, go into centering prayer, or just sit half-awake in the silence—what matters most is, as Jesus in today's Gospel, we make praying our number one "activity" in our to-do list.

We do not have to take it that literally—as in taking off for a deserted place in order to pray at dawn (although it would be really nice if we can). "Early before dawn" is anytime a few minutes earlier than the household wakes up. If we don't live anywhere near a deserted place, we can have the desert come to us, so to speak. We can "leave" and "go off" to that "deserted place" inside of us where we are joined by no one but our shadow; we can then put aside all other concerns in order to be empty, like a desert, so that we can be filled with power from a Source that's greater than us.

When we do this regularly, we get to be more confident and poised, calm in the face of crisis, unperturbed when everybody else around us is panicking. What makes the difference is our act or movement of disposing ourselves to meet God in order that we may proceed to face the rest of the day with our best foot forward. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)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Gospel: Mark 1:29-39
Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.

First things first

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

WHAT GETS US PREOCUPPIED AS WE RISE UP EARLY IN the morning, or as we recover consciousness from sleep is normally something very important to us. Some would immediately worry about their work or job first thing in the morning. They would line up the "things to do" for the day, and would plan in detail how to accomplish them. They get so focused on their work early in the morning that they would sometimes fail to notice and greet people around them. They get so work-oriented and centered, making work as the first thing they have to do first, that they would miss relating with their loved ones and even with the God who has given them life, strength and ability to work.

Jesus in today's Gospel shows us what is the right understanding of "first things first"—that which acknowledges God as the "first," the source of everything, and that giving Him the first actions of the day is in order. Jesus teaches us to think first of the Father, and do everything, including our tasks and duties in the context of a loving relationship with Him.

Everyone in the workplace can also unite his mind and heart with Jesus; and offer to Him the preoccupations about his work at the very first hours of the day. This moment of union with God, both in spontaneous prayer or in organized formal rituals, would somehow synchronize all the energies in the entire workplace and would dispose everyone to work effectively and efficiently. Putting God first in work and in the workplace will make the worker and the company the first. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

'I want to succeed as ...'

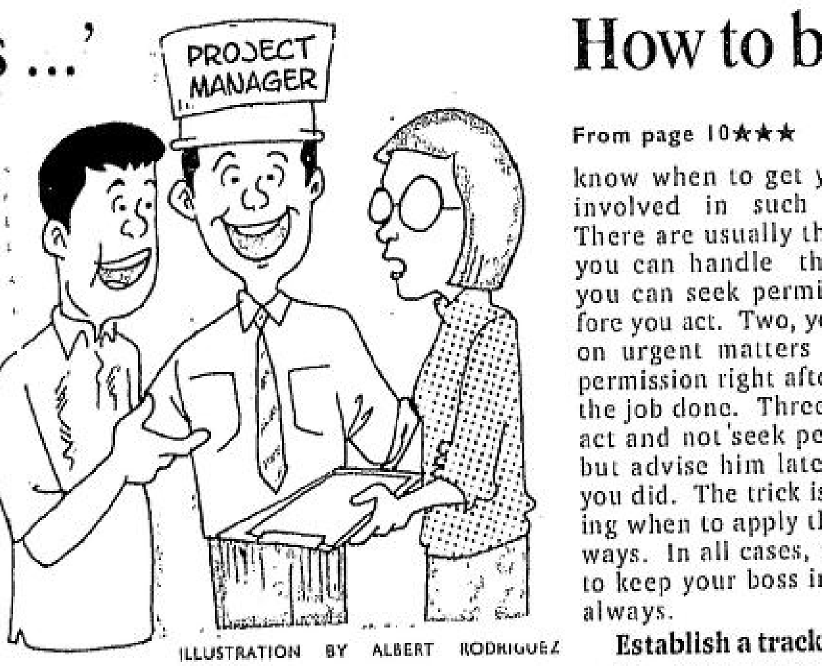
From page 10★★★

communications memorable is the story technique. Embody your message in a story that excites the person's imagination and he or she will likely remember and understand your messages.

The final word: when things go wrong in a project, assess quickly and act to correct. Perfection is the goal. But the challenge and learning is in the journey. God bless.

By the way, tickets are still available for the RJ Jacinto and Friends and the Men in Gold front act dance concert set at the AFP Theater at 7 p.m. on Feb. 13. You can get them at TicketWorld outlets, major National Bookstores, Robinsons Department Stores and Tower Records, or call 891-9999.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. E-mail feedback to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or call tel. nos.* 892-2895/96/98.)



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How to be an effective first-time ...

From page 10★★★

know when to get your boss involved in such matters. There are usually three ways you can handle this. One, you can seek permission before you act. Two, you can act on urgent matters and seek permission right after you get the job done. Three, you can act and not seek permission, but advise him later of what you did. The trick is in knowing when to apply these three ways. In all cases, remember to keep your boss in the loop always.

Establish a track record

The more you act in good faith and in the best interest of the organization, the greater the chance that you will gain more authority. Bosses tend to give more authority to those who know best what to do with it. If you have the authority but don't use it, don't look now but you'll find that authority slip away from you little by little.

On the other hand, if you continually act beyond your authority, two things can happen. If you have a consistently great track record, you might just be granted more and more authority. If you produce ineffective results by acting beyond your authority, your boss will censure you. If you act in bad faith and for your self-interest and benefit, you can lose not only your authority, but your job as well.

Oddly, it looks safe to do just what you are told. In this day and age, however, that will get you nowhere. If you want to go places in the new workplace, do what needs to be done in the interest of the customer and the organization—whether or not you are sure that you have the authority. But just don't make crippling mistakes or create irreversible adverse consequences.

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. Send feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

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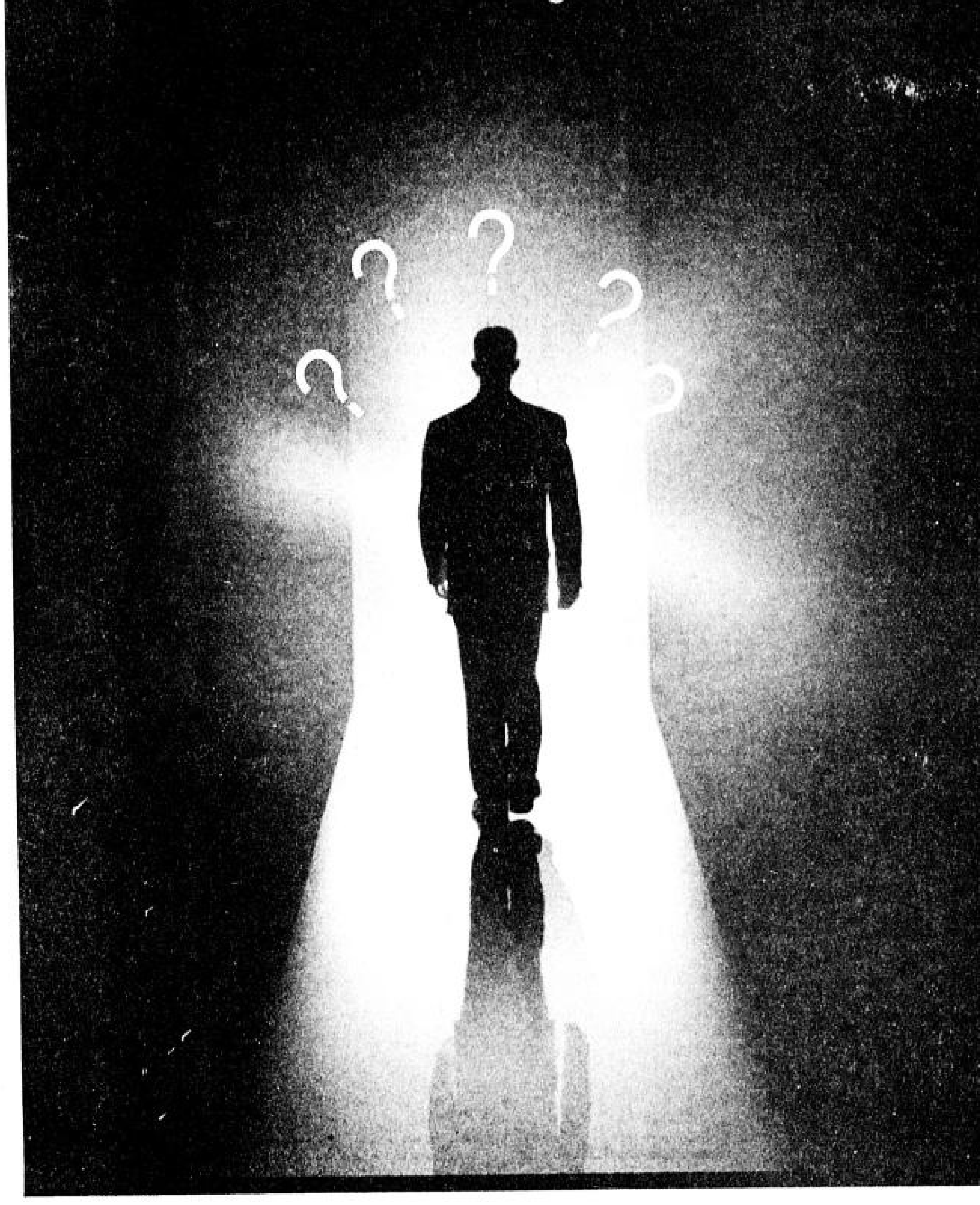

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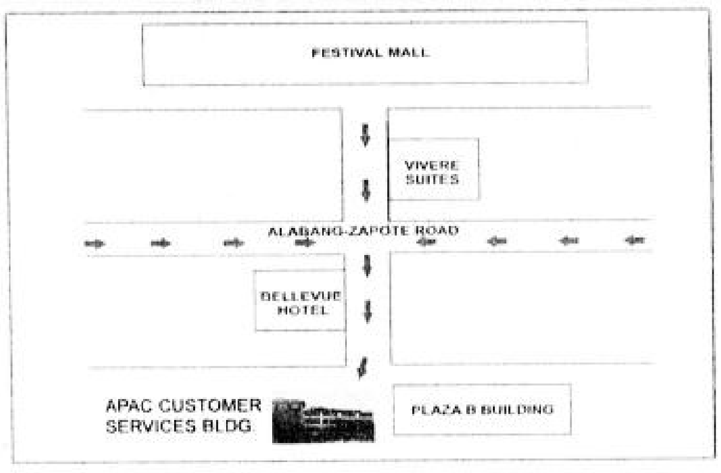

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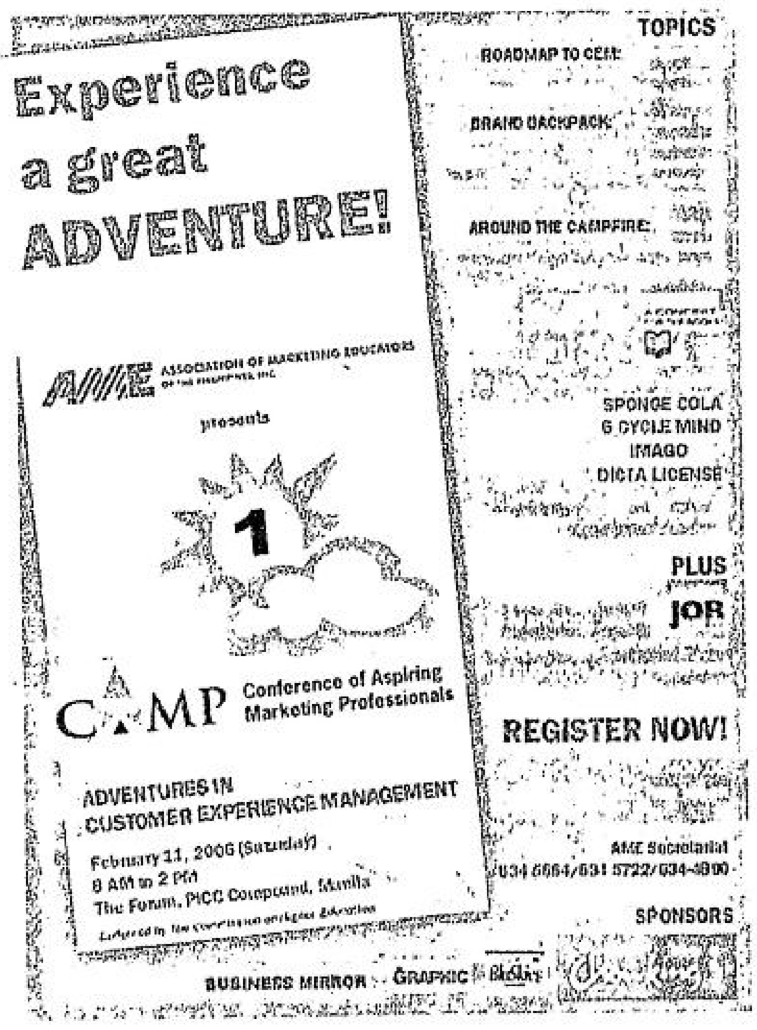

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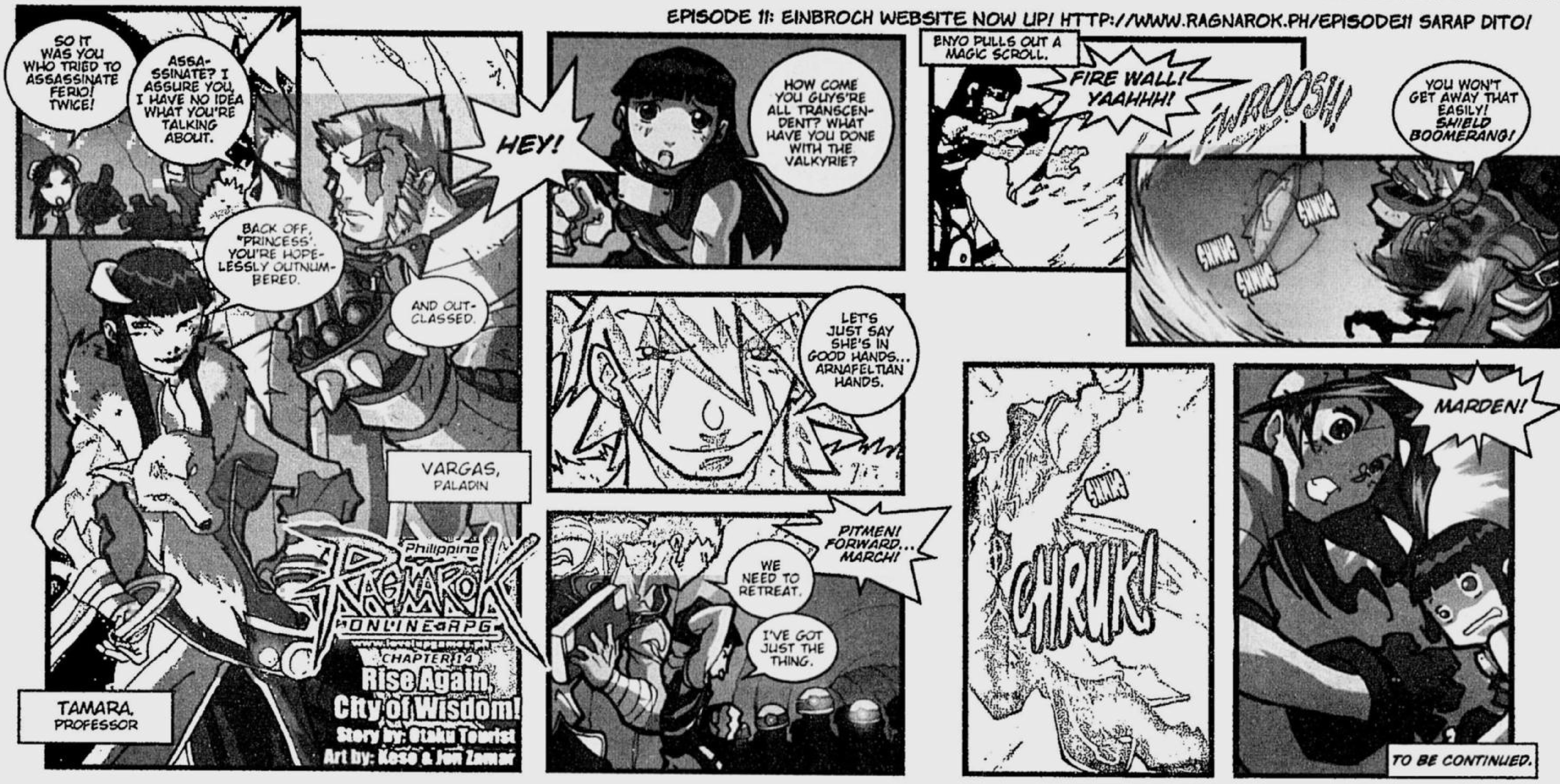
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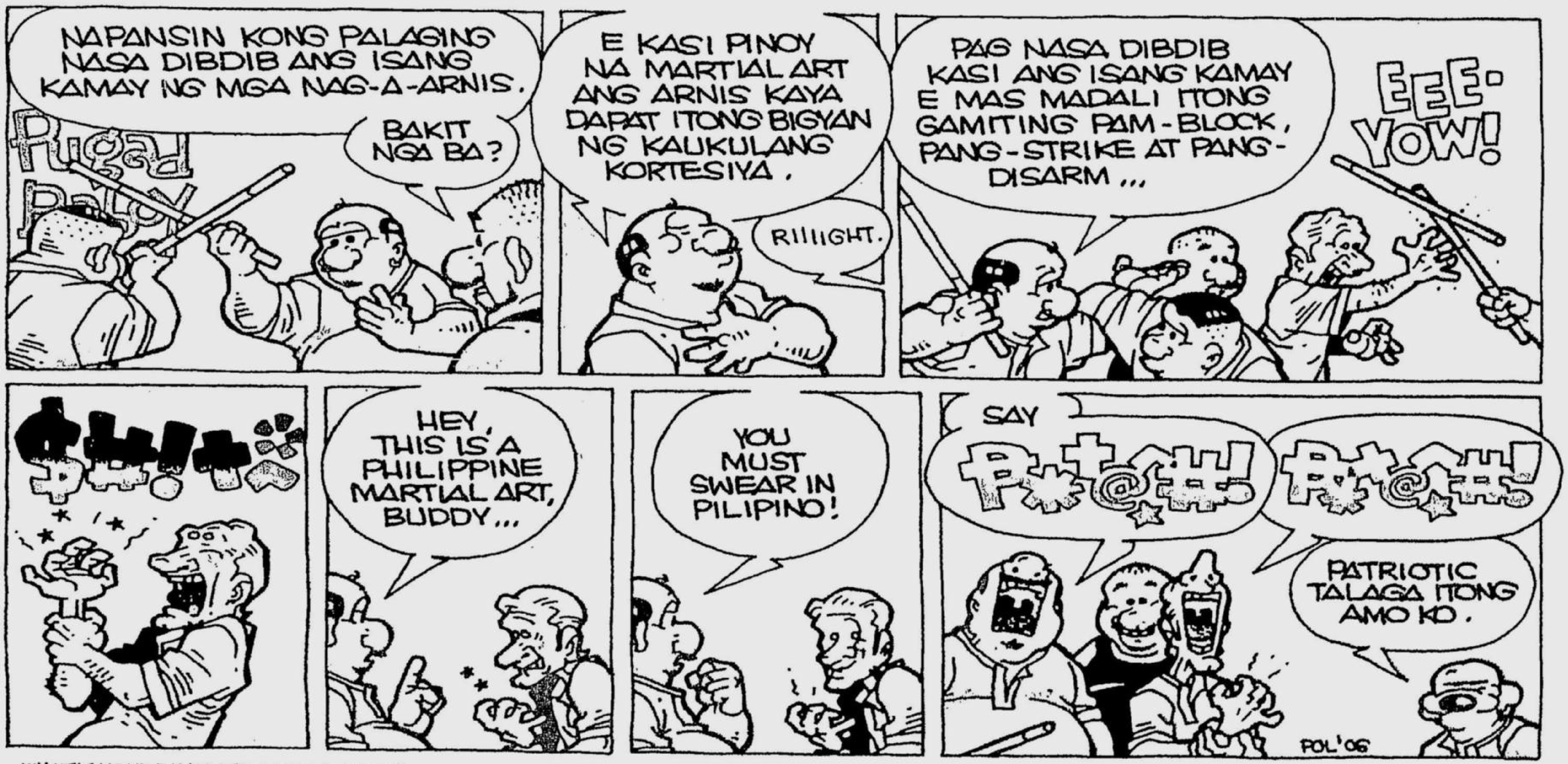
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E KASI PINOY NA MARTIAL ART ANG ARNIS KAYA DAPAT ITONG BIGYAN NG KAUKULANG KORTESIYA.
RIIIIGHT.
PAG NASA DIBDIB KASI ANG ISANG KAMAY E MAS MADALI ITONG GAMITING PAM-BLOCK, PANG-STRIKE AT PANG-DISARM...
EEE-YOW!
$H!T
HEY, THIS IS A PHILIPPINE MARTIAL ART, BUDDY...
YOU MUST SWEAR IN PILIPINO!
SAY
P*T@#!!
P*T@#!
PATRIOTIC TALAGA ITONG AMO KO.
POL'06

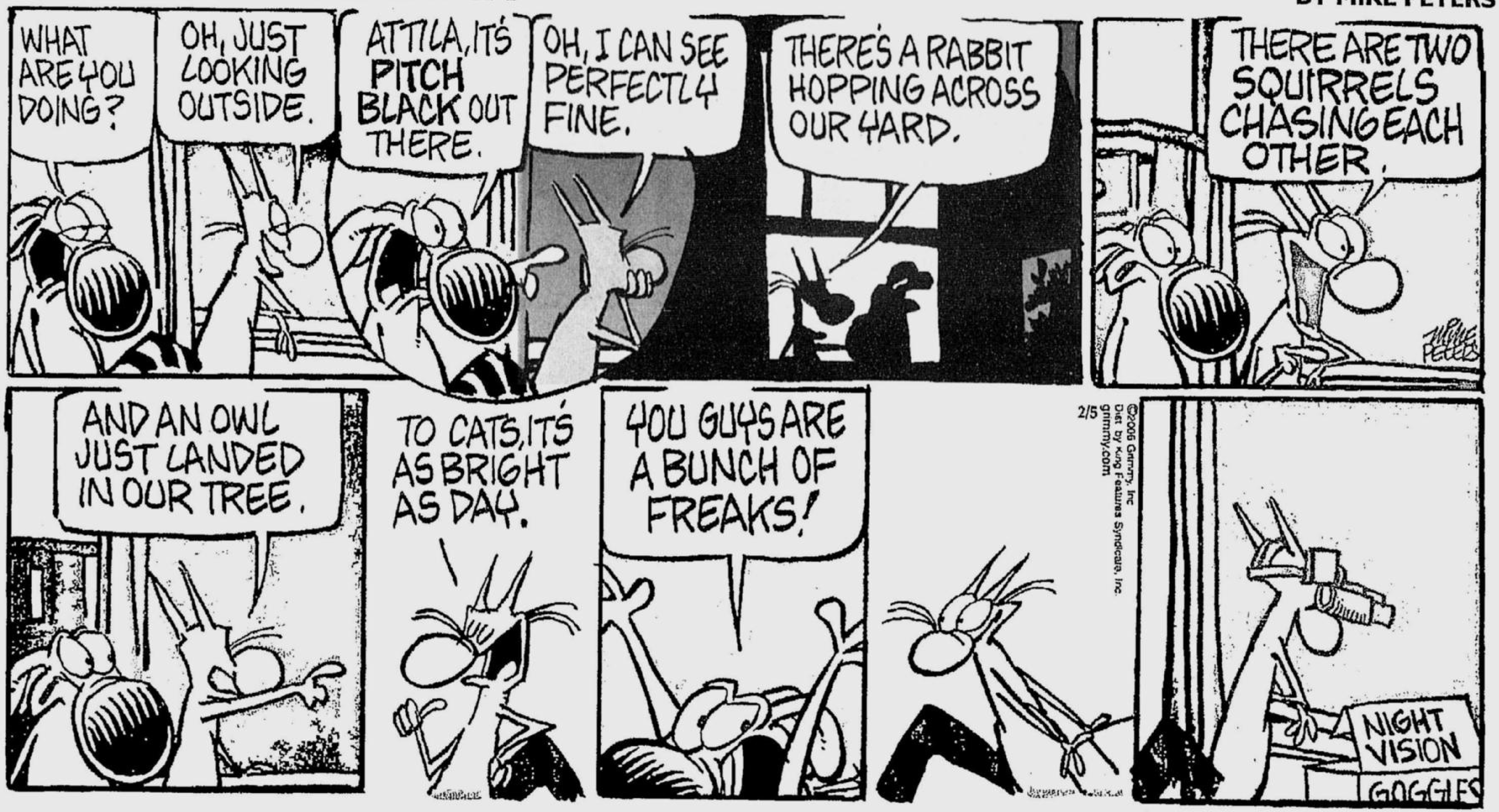
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COMICS STRIP? To better improve the Inquirer Comics Sunday section, we'd like to know what your favorite comic strips are:

①Choose your favorite comic strip among the current titles we have now: **a** Ragnarok **b** Moomoo hunters **c** Garfield **d** Mothergoose and Grimm **e** Pugad Baboy **f** Inday Wanda **g** Zits **h** Full House

②Text **inquirer life name/age/city/letter of your choice/reason for your answer** to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH, JUST LOOKING OUTSIDE.
ATTILA, IT'S PITCH BLACK OUT THERE.
OH, I CAN SEE PERFECTLY FINE.
THERE'S A RABBIT HOPPING ACROSS OUR YARD.
THERE ARE TWO SQUIRRELS CHASING EACH OTHER.
MIKE PETERS
AND AN OWL JUST LANDED IN OUR TREE.
TO CATS, IT'S AS BRIGHT AS DAY.
YOU GUYS ARE A BUNCH OF FREAKS!
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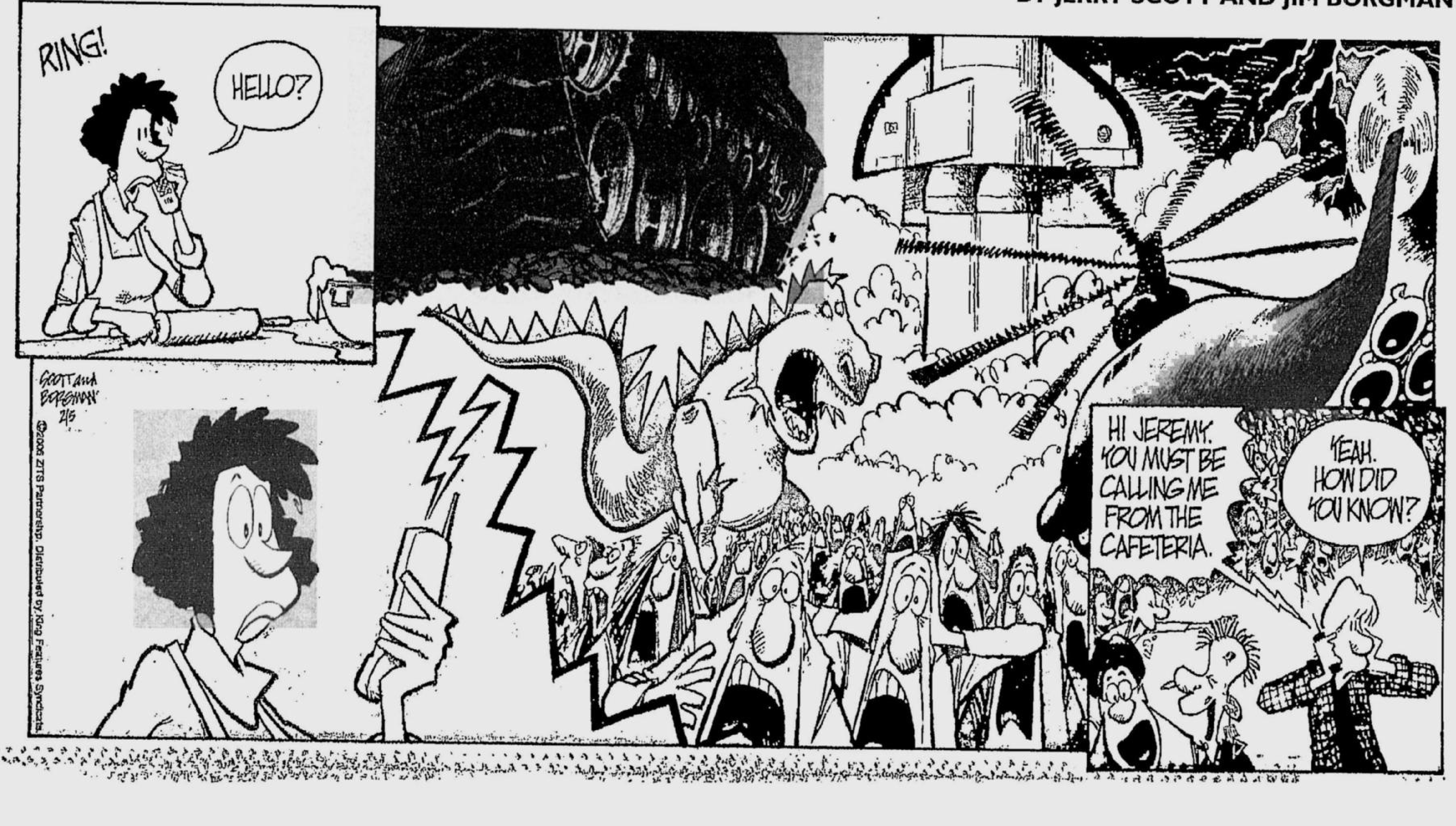
grimmy.com
2/5
NIGHT VISION GOGGLES

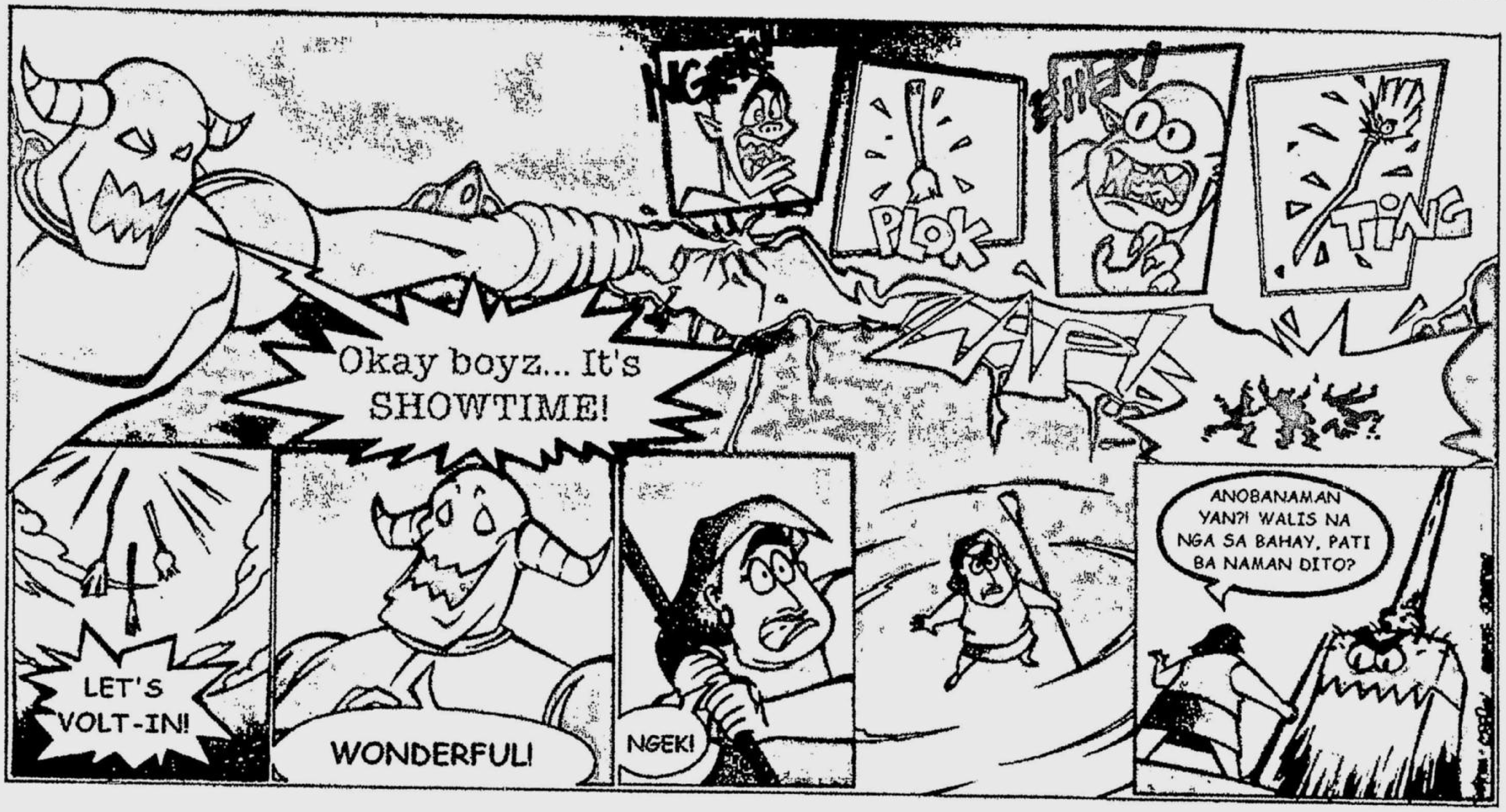
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


RING!
HELLO?
SCOTT AND BORGMAN 2/5
©2006 ZITS Partnership. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
HI JEREMY. YOU MUST BE CALLING ME FROM THE CAFETERIA.
YEAH. HOW DID YOU KNOW?

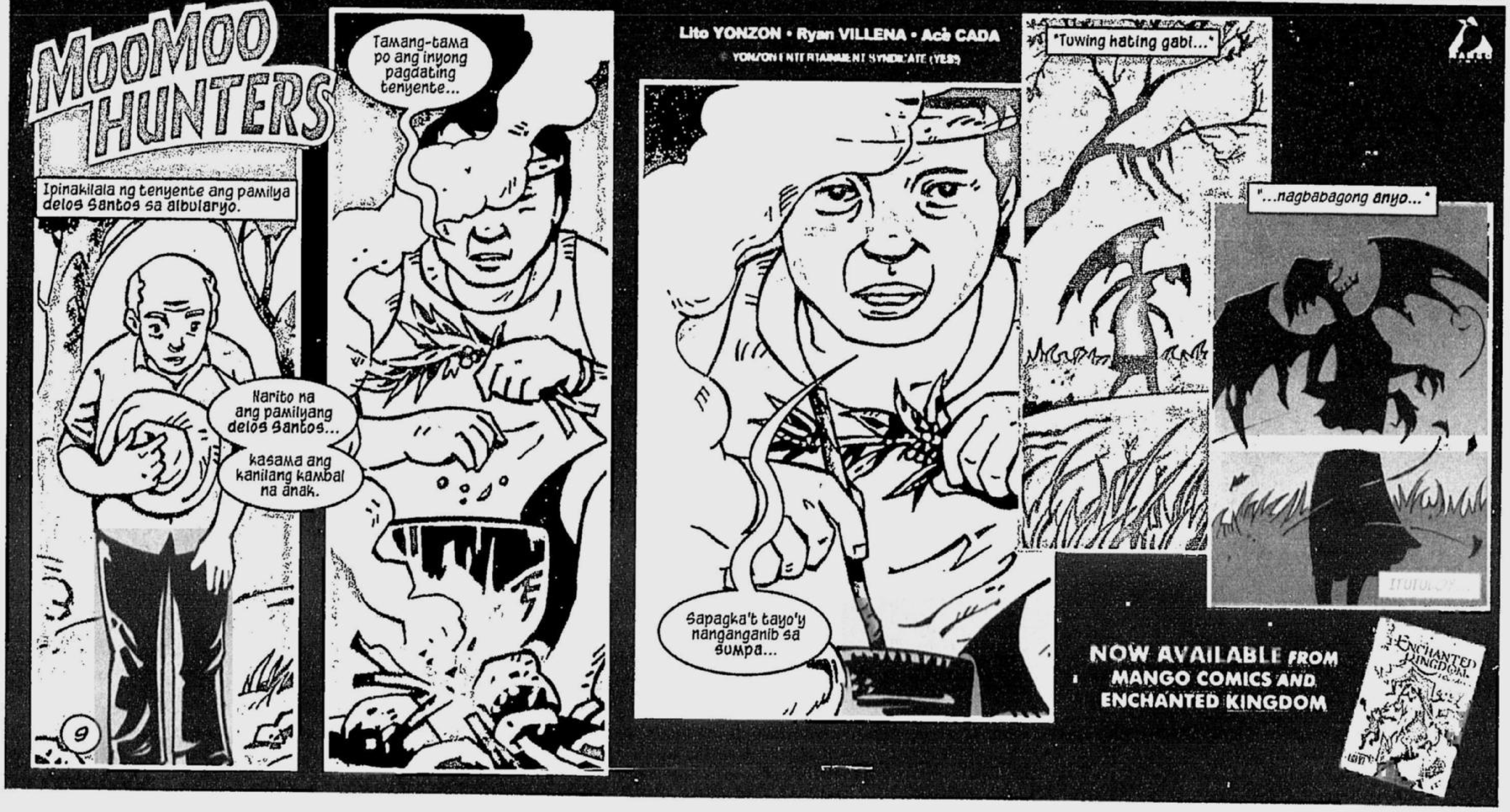
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


PLOK
EHEK!
TING
WAP!
Okay boyz... It's SHOWTIME!
LET'S VOLT-IN!
WONDERFUL!
NGEK!
ANOBANAMAN YAN?! WALIS NA NGA SA BAHAY, PATI BA NAMAN DITO?

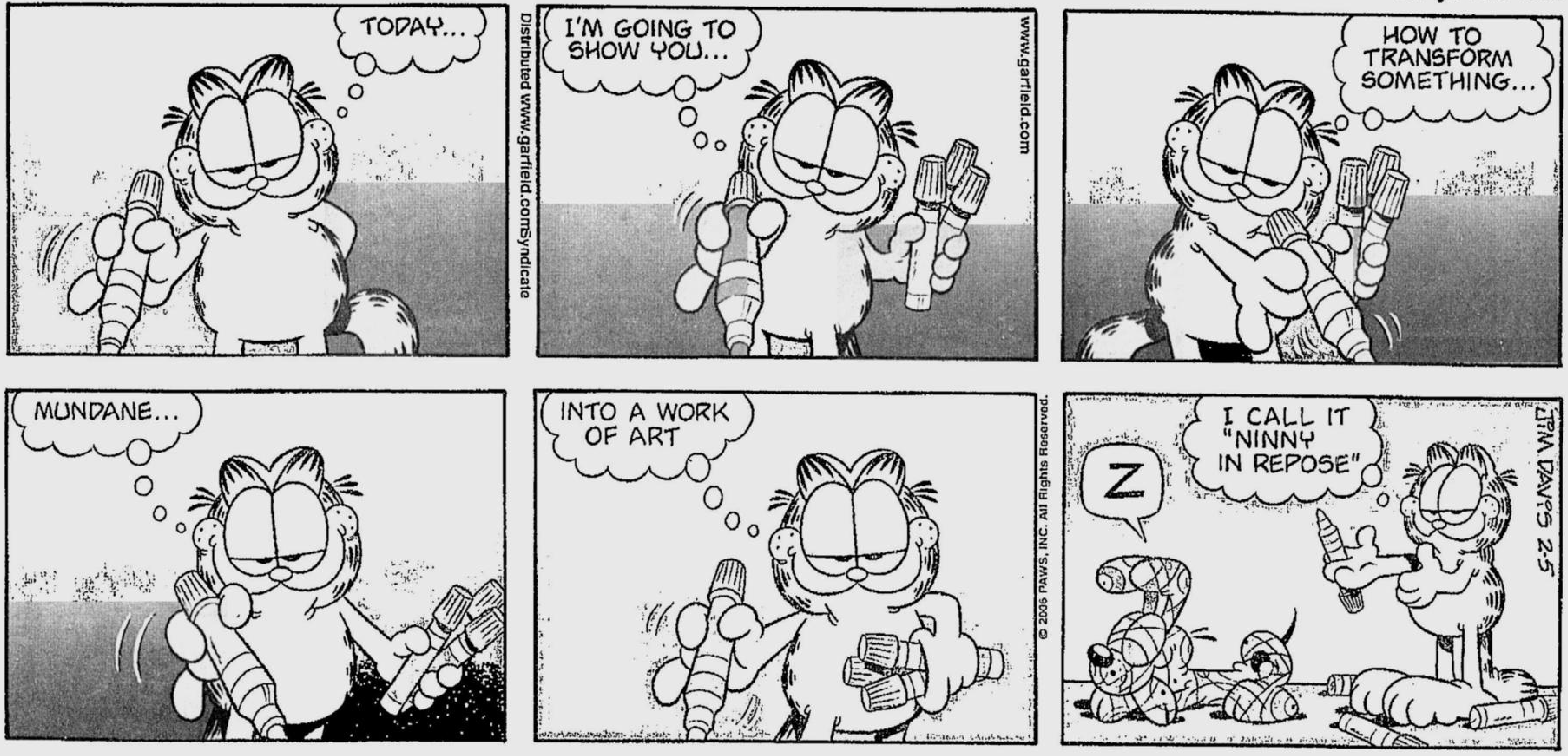
MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS


MooMoo HUNTERS
Ipinakilala ng tenyente ang pamilya delos Santos sa albularyo.
Narito na ang pamilyang delos Santos...
kasama ang kanilang kambal na anak.
Tamang-tama po ang inyong pagdating tenyente...
Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Acè CADA
© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES)
Sapagka't tayo'y nanganganib sa sumpa...
"Tuwing hating gabi..."
"...nagbabagong anyo..."
ITUTULOY...
9
NOW AVAILABLE FROM MANGO COMICS AND ENCHANTED KINGDOM
ENCHANTED KINGDOM

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


TODAY...
I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU...
Distributed www.garfield.com/syndicate
www.garfield.com
HOW TO TRANSFORM SOMETHING...
MUNDANE...
INTO A WORK OF ART
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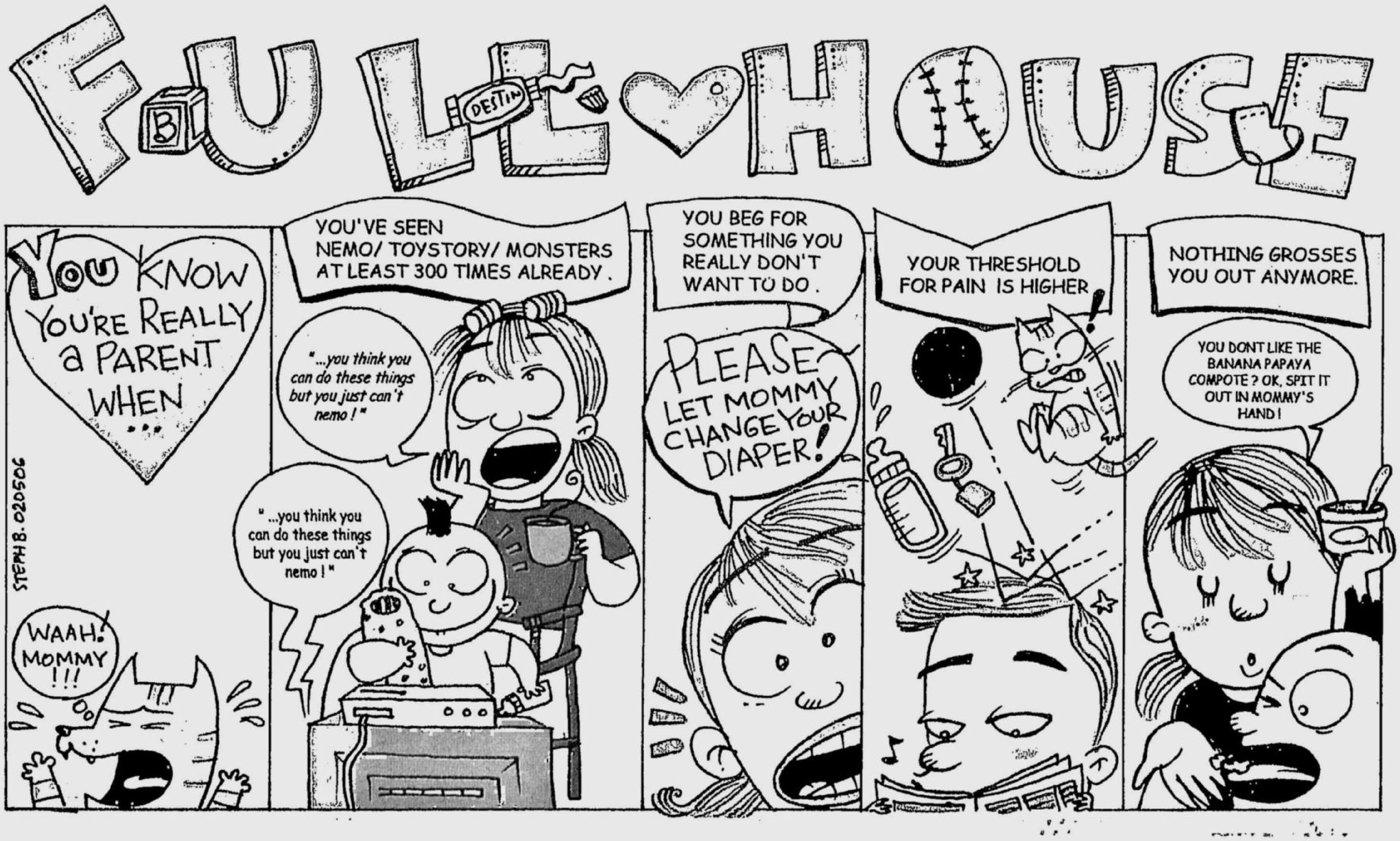
Z
I CALL IT "NINNY IN REPOSE"
JIM DAVIS 2-5

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


FULL HOUSE
B
DESTIN
YOU KNOW YOU'RE REALLY a PARENT WHEN ...
STEPH B. 020506
WAAH! MOMMY !!!
YOU'VE SEEN NEMO/ TOYSTORY/ MONSTERS AT LEAST 300 TIMES ALREADY.
"...you think you can do these things but you just can't nemo !"
"...you think you can do these things but you just can't nemo !"
YOU BEG FOR SOMETHING YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO DO.
PLEASE LET MOMMY CHANGE YOUR DIAPER!
YOUR THRESHOLD FOR PAIN IS HIGHER
!
NOTHING GROSSES YOU OUT ANYMORE.
YOU DONT LIKE THE BANANA PAPAYA COMPOTE ? OK, SPIT IT OUT IN MOMMY'S HAND !

February 5, 2006
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

CECILIA FLORES-OEBANDA

Poverty stole her childhood; Now she's helping child domestic workers keep theirs

J.K. Rowling of "Harry Potter" fame donated P4.6 million after this defender of child workers received an award from Anti-Slavery International in London

by Ma. Ceres P. Doyo
photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

THE FIRST Sunkist orange that she ever tasted, she found at the garbage dump. At the very young age of five she was already hawking fish. Buyers would say, "Dance, little girl, dance, and we'll buy what you sell." She would oblige, sell, and move on, the basket of fish on her head and fishy water streaming down her neck and shoulders.

The dump and the streets could not even be her playground, as there was no time for play. It was where she clawed her way to survive. That landscape haunts her to this day, as do the sounds, the slights, and most of all, the filthy smell of her lost childhood.

Cecilia Flores-Oebanda, 47, looks back and declares that her family was among the poorest of the poor. If her life were a movie, it would start off as a four-hanky melodrama progressing at a Brocka-esque pace toward a defiant denouement.

It's been a long and winding road from there to here.

Two months ago, on Nov. 29, Cecil, executive director of the Visayan Forum Foundation (VF), received the 2005 Anti-Slavery Award in London "for her outstanding and innovative work in the Philippines and surrounding region, particularly in the area of child domestic work."

The award, conferred yearly since 1991 by the London-based Anti-Slavery International, is meant "to draw attention to the continuing problem of slavery in the world today and to provide recognition for long-term, courageous campaigning by organizations or individuals in the countries most affected."

To page 2

A sweeter life for Dulce, p.3

The Ayurvedic doctor, p.6

The champion's mother, p.8

Cecilia

...from page 1

Although there was no cash that went with the medal, the publicity (a recent BBC documentary on her life and work among them) was expected to generate support for the awardee's concerns.

J.K. Rowling of "Harry Potter" fame parted with 50,000 pounds (P4.6 million) for Visayan Forum. Cecil's only regret is that there is no photograph of her meeting the famous English author who was catapulted to fame and fortune by her blockbuster fantasy books turned into blockbuster films.

Cecil is the second and eldest girl in a brood of 12. Her father, who couldn't read and write, tried to make both ends meet by fishing, carrying loads, and doing odd jobs. Her mother, a one-time radio drama talent, had her hands full raising the dozen.

Cecil spent her childhood in a semi-urban, semi-rural section of Bacolod City in Negros Occidental. "We lived near the garbage dump," Cecil recalls. She dug for iron scraps and anything that could be sold to postpone her family's hunger. "The hardship, desperation and helplessness fueled in me the realization that that was not the life I wanted for myself or my children," Cecil muses.

Pretty and tough

But as in real life, the world of the oppressed and the poor is not made up entirely of villains. In elementary school, Cecil had teachers who took interest in her welfare and her skills. Knowing that Cecil often went to school hungry, teachers would sometimes give her food. They also encouraged Cecil's potentials.

Teenage life was a different ball game. Fair of skin and blessed with a pretty face, Cecil had her share of reluctant admirers. They would quip, *"Guapa tani pero baho."* (Pretty but smelly.) Cecil would feign toughness, but how she hurt inside. She concentrated on making good school projects and excelled in sports. Swimming earned her a slot in the provincial high school, and later, in college.

For her accounting course, Cecil went to the Colegio de San Agustin in Bacolod City as a sports scholar. She was a student activist and a catechist in her parish at the same time. "My mother knew about my activities, but she thought everything was church-related," Cecil relates. One day, a brother found a copy of Mao's " Red Book" among Cecil's things and told their father about it.

"My father slapped me," Cecil says. But she stood her ground and gave him a lecture about struggle and societal change. Her father, unschooled and unread, listened intently.

A military crackdown on activists in 1977 sent Cecil packing. She quit school and found herself in Negros' so-called CHICKS area, site of frequent clashes between the military and the communist rebels.

Cecil was soon absorbed into an armed communist unit and swore allegiance to the hammer-and-sickle. Did she have to give up her Christian faith? "No," the former catechist protests. "That, no one could make me do."

Cecil stayed for a while with the little-known Maghat tribe and learned their ways. "The Maghat women worked while the men just stayed at home," she remembers. Cecil also worked in "red" expansion areas in logging sites. Her presence, she says, was not obvious, because she didn't look like she could carry firearms and ammunition.

But oh, she could. Cecil shows a lumpy muscle on her shoulder, proof of the heavy firearms she had on her shoulder for years.

Revolution and romance

Romance didn't have to take a backseat to the revolution. Cecil met and married her husband in the armed movement. They were both only in their late teens. After eldest son Eric was born in the hills, Cecil started to feel the burden of her duties as a cadre and mother. "The baby was slung in front of me, I had a carbine in one hand and a kettle in the other." Soon Eric had to be left in the care of in-laws. Cecil cried her heart out for a whole month after that.

When her mother died in 1980, Cecil came down disguised as a student. "I had a .45 with me. My siblings waited for me somewhere, only to tell me that they had buried her." The sky caved in and Cecil let out a primal scream.

Back in the hills, Cecil became the wanted and elusive Commander Liway, whose true identity the military did not know. Cecil was heavy with her second child when her unit clashed with pursuing military troops. "Some were able to retreat uphill," she recalls. But she was trapped in a foxhole with an aide for hours and couldn't make a retreat.

International awardee: Cecil Oebanda receives the Anti-Slavery Award of 2005 with Lord Bill Brett, director of the International Labour Organization UK, and Mary Cuneen, director of Anti-Slavery International

"I could feel the bullets whizzing past me. I talked to the baby in my womb. Child, I said, I guess this is it. Berto, my aide, never left my side and tried to protect me. But a grenade launcher got him. I saw blood oozing from his mouth. All I could do was hold his hand until he breathed his last." Cecil had a split second to decide.

"This is Commander Liway," Cecil shouted. "Hold your fire, I am coming out!" The soldiers surrounded Cecil and the other rebels, among them her husband and her own young recruits. Two of the recuits were shot. Cecil still shudders and becomes emotional when she remembers that moment.

Cecil, her husband and the other captives were flown to Camp Delgado in Iloilo where "Commander Liway" finally declared her true identity. A week after her capture, Cecil gave birth to second son Kip (for *dakip* or capture). Four years in prison produced a third child. Daughter Malaya (for freedom) became the poster baby for her parents' appeal for freedom.

Cecil and her husband were among the first who were released soon after the 1986 Edsa revolt that toppled a long-staying dictator and raised Corazon C. Aquino to the presidency. The couple's newfound liberty brought forth a fourth child, Ani (for harvest), but by then cracks in the marriage had started to show. The union was not meant to last.

Cecil's own children did not have to endure what their mother did. They went to very good universities in Manila, thanks partly to Cecil's siblings, who all struggled and made good.

A way to serve

It was during the early post-Marcos days that the Visayan Forum began. Cecil had decided she was not taking the road back to the communist movement and was in search of a way to serve.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Poster baby for freedom: Cecil in an early picture, with daughter Malaya

In Manila, concerned citizens with Visayan roots, Cecil among them, decided to come together to stay up to date and get mobilized for worthwhile causes. The weekly gatherings generated energy, and when the 1991 Ormoc, Leyte tragedy (flood and mudslides that killed more than 10,000) happened, VF moved to do its share.

Visayas being a main source of young migrant workers recruited for domestic work, VF decided to address the issues afflicting this group. Says Cecil: "Then ILO-based Thetis Mangahas, national coordinator for the elimination of child labor in the Philippines, opened the horizon for us." Child domestic workers (CDW) were then becoming a hot issue, not just in the Philippines but in the rest of Asia.

In 1991 VF took the lead in the global march of children that pushed for the adoption of an international convention on child labor. Cecil is also the Southeast Asian regional coordinator of the movement.

Invisible workers

They are the invisible workers, Cecil says of the CDW. "Many of them are trafficked and sold into abusive situations. They have to pay their parents' debts, pay unreasonable recruitment fees. Many endure tremendous physical abuse."

Cecile tells about a rescued girl who died in a VF center after her employer made her drink the acid used for unclogging toilets. A CDW was made to drink bleaching fluid whenever she failed to finish the laundry. Cecile has met domestic workers who've been burned with flat irons or cigarettes. Such stories are not just from hostile climes abroad, they are also straight out of the home country. No CDWs below 14, Cecil stresses. Persons aged 18 and below are considered minors.

VF maintains several homes away from home for CDWs in distress as well as centers in port areas. Part of VF's work is monitoring ships that might come in with loads of CDWs. Right now, VF's urgent concern is the passage of the "Magna Carta for the Kasambahay" (Senate Bill 1772) that would ensure the protection of the rights of those who are employed in homes, especially CDWs.

From the garbage dump to the jungle and now the domestic front, Cecilia Flores-Oebanda has come a long way, and continues to wage a war against the enslavement wrought by poverty.

Visayan Forum's main office is at the 4th floor of the RFM Corporate Center, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City, tel. no. 631-8101, local 7401. E-mail address: visforum@pldtdsl.net or visforum@hotmail.com.

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Editor in Chief	**Alya B. Honasan**
Managing Editor	**Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz**
Associate Editor	**Ruel S. De Vera**
Staff Writer	**Eric S. Caruncho**
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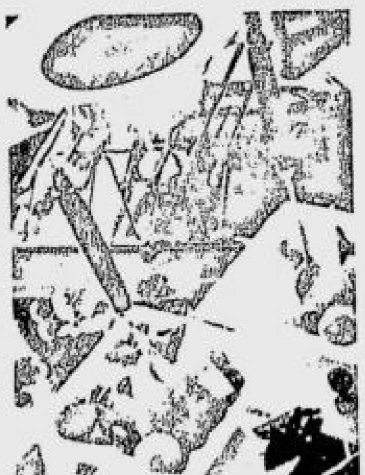
Editorial Assistant	**Sharon M. Felipe**
Advertising & Sales Manager	**Kenny Nuyda**

THE Sunday INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808 locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph. For press releases, send e-mail to pr_sim@inquirer.com.ph.


Hotel Philippine Plaza's Cafe Plaza Too offers a Valentine buffet featuring aphrodisiac desserts. For inquiries, call 551-5555 locals 1529, 1555 or 1531. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Letter

Was she thinking: grief
is a letter you mail to yourself

once the turnstile's been turned
x or so number of times

at the train station? The delay
is necessary, is chosen in advance

for a day like this, when she pushes
the door open into a room

made immaculate, and relatives
made inquisitive, by an infant's

early death. The father lets out
facts one at a time: heart failure.

Two days of life. Less than one hour
for the cremation. The periods

like steel clicking into place.
She hears the footsteps of a man

who hands the ashes back
in a white envelope, to the mother

who accepts it with the calm
of a commuter holding a ticket

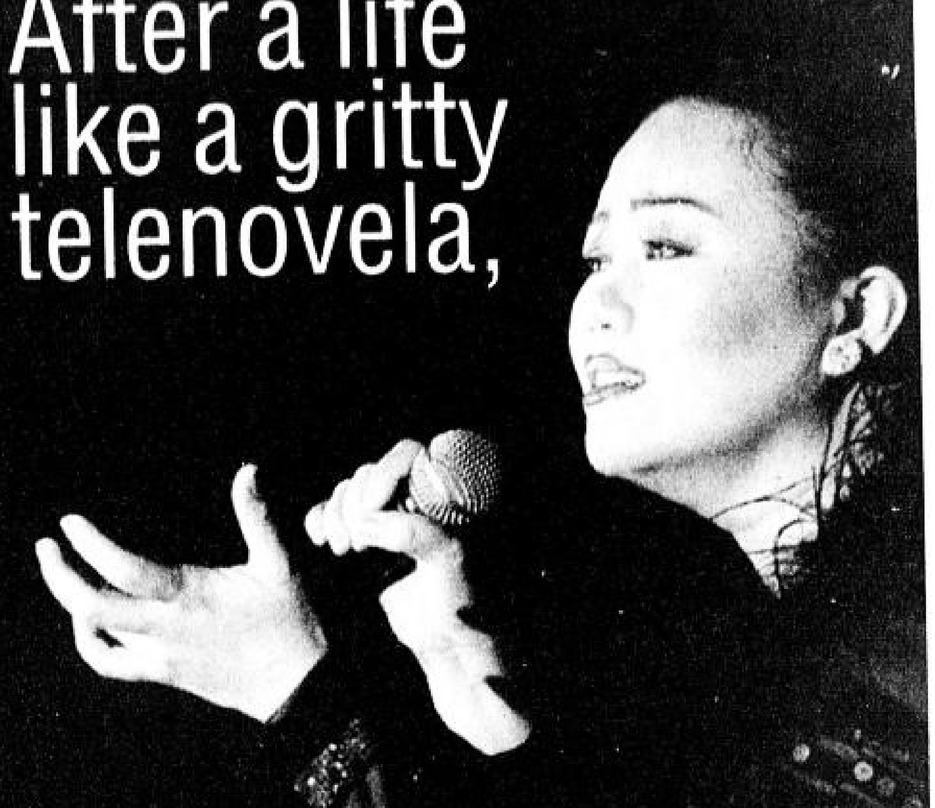
to a train ride that will carry her
farthest from the right address.

Naya S. Valdellon

Survivors' Tales

by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

After a life like a gritty telenovela, things just got *sweeter* for Dulce

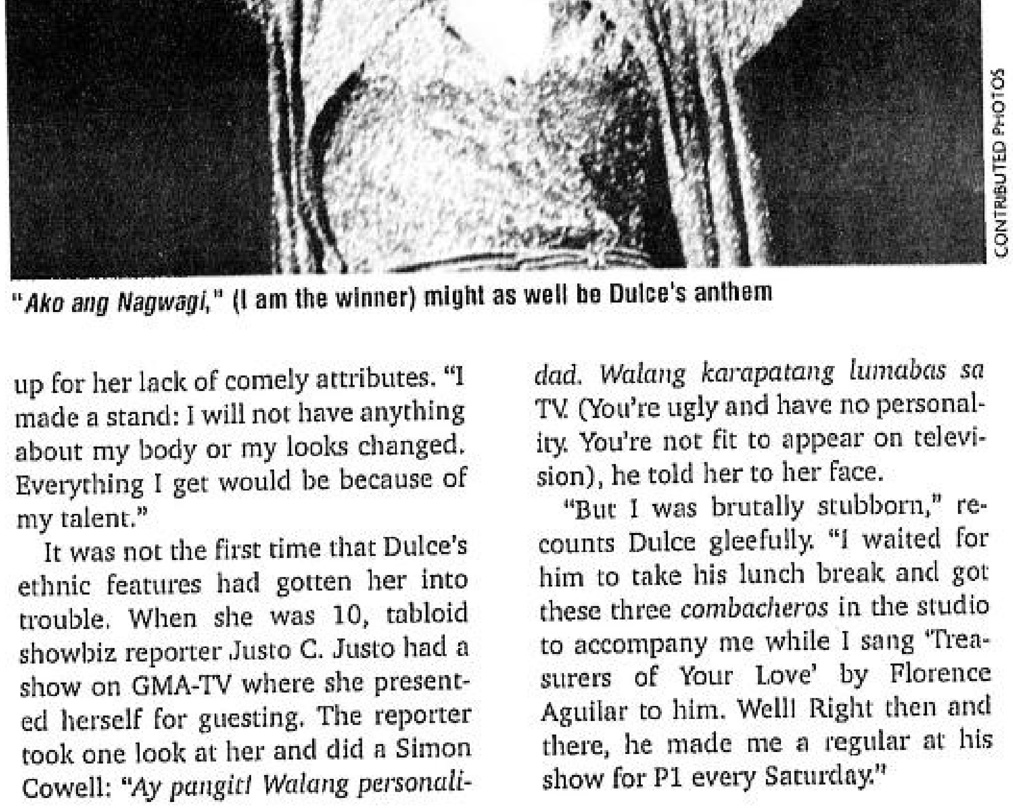


Proving that she's got more than just lung power, this singer and recording star reveals how she refused a nose job, survived two rapes and escaped an abusive marriage to finally grab her share of love and happiness

Heartbreak songs are the singer's trademark

Venue Segafredo

BETOT JOHNSON



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

"*Ako ang Nagwagi*," (I am the winner) might as well be Dulce's anthem

HER showbiz name belies the rather sordid details that encumbered her long hard climb to the top of the local music business.

But although her life could very well be the stuff of gritty telenovelas, Dulce says she harbors no rancor against the people who took advantage of the naive *probinsyana* that she was in the late 1970s, when she ran away from home to seek a better future in Manila.

"We were very poor," says Dulce, the sixth of eight siblings born to a construction worker and his dressmaker wife. "My mother was unschooled and didn't think education was that important. She said we'd just get married early anyway," she reveals. And in fact, most of her siblings did, with only Dulce making it all the way to Grade 6. She wanted so much to get some learning that she'd clamber over the school's perimeter fence and eavesdrop at the nearby classrooms, she recounts. "I couldn't enroll even in public schools because I'd need some uniforms and school supplies. Where would I get the money?" Her perseverance touched the teachers, who allowed her to stay on her precarious perch.

Born Maria Teresa Magdalena Llamedo in 1961, Dulce grew up listening to her parents sing away their blues. Music became her salvation as well when tedium set in while she did her house chores in Cebu. Dulce would hie off to neighboring town fiestas to win a few centavos, food stuff or a bottle of Tanduay in singing contests and *peryahan*. The amateur shows proved to be good practice, because many years later, she would go on to win the grand prize at the 1979 Fourth Asian Singing Competition in Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific Singing Contest in 1988.

Heavily conflicted

But back in those lean days, the songs were just a welcome distraction and source of attention. "It was only through my singing that I'd get approval," she says candidly, adding that she and her mother didn't quite get along at that time. "I guess she was heavily conflicted," muses Dulce. "While she approved of my singing, she was not very supportive. I had to ask other people for fare money to go to those amateur shows. Maybe my mother feared that, being uneducated, I'd only be taken advantage of and become frustrated in the long run. She didn't even want me to shake hands and get comfortable with other people."

But the girl was stubborn and resourceful. Although the household didn't own a radio, Dulce knew that a worker from a rattan factory nearby regularly passed their house on his way home for lunch everyday, and that he'd be lugging a radio that went full blast with the latest hit songs of the day. The nine-year-old girl would wait and listen in rapture to the songs, trying to memorize the lyrics as she heard them.

"One time I heard my favorite song, 'So Lucky In My Life,' on his radio, and I just went crazy. I had to get the lyrics, I said to myself. I grabbed a pencil and some paper and immediately followed him, writing down the lyrics as fast as I could. But I didn't know English that well and it was slow going. Meanwhile, he was walking fast and was about to climb a steep hill, so I called out, *mama* (sir), can you slow down a bit? I just need to get the lyrics of the song. And he did."

Her mother, recalls Dulce, was not as flexible, and soon, the conflict between them led the mutinous girl to pack her bags and leave for Manila "I had started singing in a Cebu nightclub when I was 12 for P5 a night," she recounts. "I'd use *papel de japon* to stain my cheeks red and draw my eyebrows with Mongol. " Looking very grown up, she soon caught the eye of a married man. "My mother chased him with a pair of scissors," she says, laughing.

Dulce was barely 13 when she auditioned for Tawag ng Tanghalan and became a finalist. "I didn't win but a talent scout for Opera House brought me to Romulus' Club in Roxas Blvd. where I began singing for P30 a night." With no relatives in Manila, she turned for help to the married man enamored with her. "He introduced me to this family in Quezon City who owned a warehouse of books, and there I slept, with books as pillows and companions."

Soon enough, the married Lothario was offering the young girl the moon if she lived with him, but the feisty *probinsyana* wouldn't bite, preferring to earn a living singing in a club-restaurant owned by a controversial public official. He was not as honorable, however. "He raped me," Dulce would say of the club owner. She was only 14 then and knew nobody in the big city, so she kept quiet.

Grand prize

Her stint at the supper club did not go unnoticed, however. It was there that Dulce was discovered by composer George Canseco, who got her to sing the theme song for Lorna Tolentino's movie, "Dulce Amor," which also inspired her showbiz name. Then an executive for Blackgold Records, Canseco also had the Cebuana interpret his entry to the 1978 Metro Pop Music Festival, *"Ako ang Nasawi, Ako ang Nagwagi."* Although the song did not win, the singer was chosen to represent the country at the Fourth Asian Singing Competition where, to her own surprise, she won the grand prize.

Becoming a recording artist next would have been a cinch, had her nose not gotten in the way.

"This top recording official brought me to a cosmetic surgeon for a nose job without even telling me or asking my permission. I felt so offended I walked out," recounts the buxom singer. She had wanted to prove that she could make it on her own terms, adds Dulce, and had hoped that her lung power would more than make up for her lack of comely attributes. "I made a stand: I will not have anything about my body or my looks changed. Everything I get would be because of my talent."

It was not the first time that Dulce's ethnic features had gotten her into trouble. When she was 10, tabloid showbiz reporter Justo C. Justo had a show on GMA-TV where she presented herself for guesting. The reporter took one look at her and did a Simon Cowell: "*Ay pangit! Walang personalidad. Walang karapatang lumabas sa* TV. (You're ugly and have no personality. You're not fit to appear on television), he told her to her face.

"But I was brutally stubborn," recounts Dulce gleefully. "I waited for him to take his lunch break and got these three *combacheros* in the studio to accompany me while I sang 'Treasurers of Your Love' by Florence Aguilar to him. Well! Right then and there, he made me a regular at his show for P1 every Saturday."

Sheer talent

Sheer talent also saw the singer through, despite the unofficial ban imposed on her by the vexed recording executive. By this time in 1980, Dulce had joined the government's "*Balik-Saya*" musical caravan to the US and Canada and was making a good living by singing the theme songs of local movies. Unfortunately, she had signed a five-year contract with the recording company, so Mr. Recording Executive made every effort to block other deals that she might have made on her own.

"They hated me," she says of several recording executives. "*Rebelde daw ako* (they said I was too rebellious)."

Being naïve, trusting and, as she describes it, "uneducated," Dulce was easy prey to other recording officials, one of whom raped her when she hitched a ride in his car. "*Nag biglang liko na lang siya* (he just suddenly turned the car in a motel driveway)," she recounts. Years later, he would ask her forgiveness and, being a renewed Christian by then, she forgave him. Still, Dulce couldn't resist adding with a grimace, "Hah, *nag*-I love you *pa siya* afterwards!"

Deep cracks

Goaded on by her early misfortunes, Dulce tried even harder to make it in the local music industry, finally making it as a successful recording star with such hits as "*Paano*," "*Maalaala Mo Kaya*" and "Memory." By then, too, she had gotten married to her longtime manager, a '70s singing star and contemporary of "D'Sensations'" love team Vilma Santos and Bobot Mortiz. Their union produced three children, now aged 24, 18 and 13, and an ostensibly happy relationship.

It was only much later when Dulce would reveal the deep cracks in her marriage, confessing that she was in an abusive relationship and had to support the family by her lonesome. The final break came when her mother got sick "and he would not let me bring her to the hospital," she reveals.

After that, everything turned grey, Dulce adds, and she got involved and lived in with another man. "I thought, since I've gotten wet, I might as well go swimming." They had a little girl whom she had to leave with him in Germany for two years while she went home and fixed her papers.

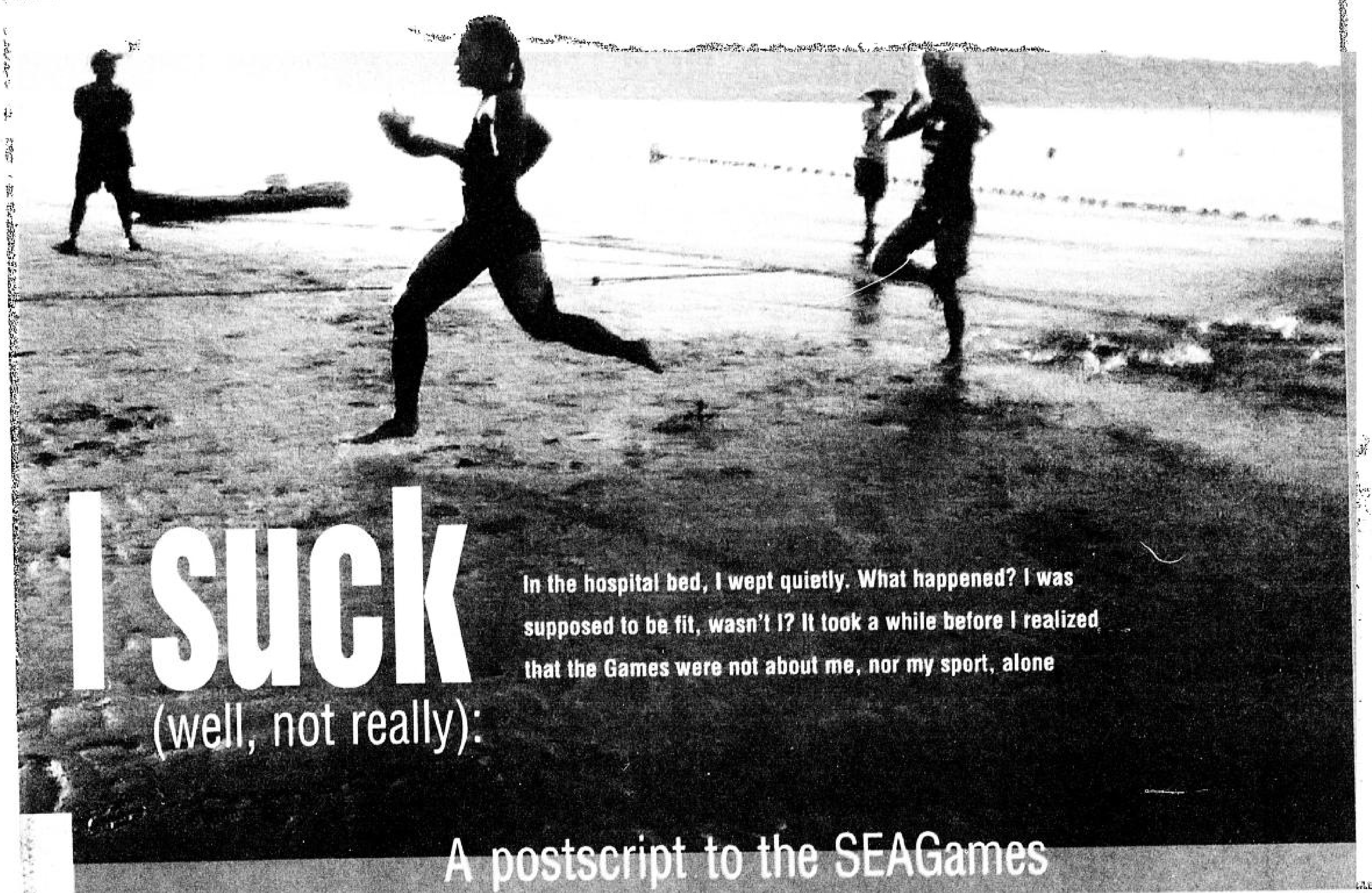
For the past five years, her husband had refused to cooperate with her lawyer when she filed an annulment case, says Dulce. "Then suddenly, last December, everything just fell into place and he finally agreed to let me go." Of course, she adds, she's still supporting him. "He still lives in our house with the children," she complains.

But Dulce's not one to quibble, especially now that happiness is within reach. She and her partner Bernard hope to get married this year and start anew as a legal couple. There's much to celebrate, she says, despite the tough times she has had to go through. "There's a reason God allows us to undergo hardships," says Dulce. They are what makes life sweeter, she adds.

Dulce topbills "Hearts In Season," a Valentine concert, with Janet Basco and Ivy Violan on Feb. 13, at the Manila Peninsula Rigodon Ballroom. The concert also features Toti Fuentes as musical director and features painter-singers George Tagle and Miguel Castro. For ticket information, call tel. nos. 776-9359, 0917-9011333 and 0921-8475577

First Person

by Ani Karina S. de Leon



I suck (well, not really): A postscript to the SEAGames

In the hospital bed, I wept quietly. What happened? I was supposed to be fit, wasn't I? It took a while before I realized that the Games were not about me, nor my sport, alone

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SUCK! I laid it all on the line in my last race, and still it wasn't enough. I could make up all sorts of excuses why I didn't do well, but I won't. I don't even want to think of how much of myself I put into this one big event. It's ridiculous how all year long I've been focusing most of my energy on it, and right now all I want to do is bury it in the back of my head. Hah!

I'm talking about the recently concluded Southeast Asian Games, where I took part in the triathlon event. Why did I want to join this thing anyway? My friend convinced me to try out for it, and it seemed like a good suggestion at the time. I really wasn't prepared for that first qualifying race, but it was mostly out of curiosity that I joined, wondering if I could hack it. Slowly, I gained momentum as the rest of the races progressed, and what do you know, I did make the cut, which for me was a big relief.

Final lap

Fast forward to the final lap of my run in the triathlon event of the SEAGames, when I felt like everything was happening in slow motion. But I guess that's probably because I was actually going at the slowest possible pace you could imagine. My legs felt like lead, and I had no idea how I was able to command them to move. That was when my last chance for a medal was cruelly and quickly taken away from me. I couldn't keep up with the girl who passed me, even when I tried to get my form together—not even when, as a last resort, I summoned all the spirits I could conjure. As I eventually crossed the finish line, I was in pain. Physically sore, definitely, but I think it was my heart that hurt the most, and I was crying a couple of minutes longer than I should have if the aching had been caused only by my throbbing body.

Lying in the hospital bed (straight from the finish line to an ambulance), I was confused. What happened? Was that it? I was supposed to be fit, wasn't I? My entire year seemed like such a waste. I started to weep again in silence.

And then I stopped myself. What was I doing? I couldn't wallow in self-pity now. I had done too much, and my friends and family had gone through a lot, only for me to end up in this state, and I couldn't allow it. A voice kept ringing inside my head, and it was my teammate's soothing words. It's the journey, not the destination. That calmed me a lot.

Colorful year

This has proven to be a really colorful year for me, in more ways than one. I ended a long-term relationship, I won and lost races. My precious, precious custom-made titanium bike was stolen at a very crucial period in my preparation, and at different points during my training I had to ride my teammate's bike when he wasn't using it, a really heavy cruiser, a BMX bike and an old seven speed racer, until I finally got my Vellum road bike right before my main race.

Too many times we found ourselves in strange and uncomfortable situations, like locking ourselves out of the house and climbing over the balcony so we wouldn't miss a workout, living like sardines in a box without proper food for two months, often pissing off our coach because of our stupidity, always running out of money, heck, how I could go on!

I had a couple of rough training patches due to injury and some pretty breakthrough performances. I crashed big time going down a slope in the rain, and I will always have an ugly mark on my face to remember it by. I have had a lot of good times and countless petty fights (which sometimes ended up in brawls) with my teammates, whom I've had to contend with for the past couple of months, and whom I adore. I found out who my true friends were. I met new people and experienced new places. I acquired new knowledge and imparted what little I knew to others.

Looking back, it was one big roller-coaster ride. Throughout this whole thing, though, I did feel loved. I have been the beneficiary of numerous kind and selfless souls who have shared themselves with me willingly, and because of this I feel like I have, indeed, emerged a winner. And for the first time since I started competing, my family came out and watched me. Maybe they all sensed that they were going to be part of something big.

I do tend to forget it once in a while, but of course I realize that the Games is not about me nor my sport alone. Yes, I and my fellow triathletes do contribute to the event, but we are just bit players in a major production. And how we delivered, the Philippine Team.

I am thrilled to have been part of this particular delegation, which for the first time in the history of the SEAGames claimed the overall championship.

The fact that the Philippine Sportswriters Association named no one athlete as Athlete of the Year and instead named the whole Philippine Team as the award's recipient because of this overwhelming effort is an indication of its significance. Theo, a sportswriter, pointed out to me that it was my prize, too. (*Team Philippines was also the unanimous choice of the INQUIRER editors as their Filipino of the Year. -Ed*)

Someone wise

Truth be told, I don't feel like I have anything to be ashamed of, even if I don't have hardware of any color to show for it. Someone wise reminded me of a line in the movie "A Few Good Men," which says that you don't need to have a medal to have honor, and although it took me awhile to accept this, I do agree.

And no, I don't really think I suck. I am aware that just getting to this level already takes a certain amount of attitude and ability. I am proud of what I do. I was able to participate in such a hope-giving demonstration for this much deserving nation. I watched emotionally as our flag waved gracefully to the whole of Southeast Asia at the closing ceremonies. Oh, I would gladly do it all over again in a heartbeat. Q

Poetry

Love Poems for Luis

It's not that you complete me
but that you smooth my cracked
edges with your tender caresses
Not that you make me whole
but ease the settling
of my lonely parts together
You may see me flinch at forever
and you wonder
I think about how words exist
for things we cannot hold
like time and air and love and hate
How did something like
an eternity get packaged
in a piece of transparent rock tainted
by brown people's blood?
And so I flinch at forever
and you wonder
I think about the way your hands
fit in the crook of my waist and
how your lips are soft as a woman's
I wonder how to say
the swelling of my heart
in the moments when you
turn the key and step into my room
and look at me with eyes that see
beyond words and the scars
I once thought defined me
You rip me apart
horizontal
vertical
with your talk of madness
and desire
Your passions
It is wrestling.
It is Kingdom Come.
It is writing.
It is the old hood.
It is me
slowly disintegrating like
draft beer bubbles
in your arms
Bobby Darin crooning
on the turntable
through the crackling
of fire
in my gut
consuming every second
that passes on the F-train
in the crunch of snow
among Amazon warriors
wielding words and rhythms
against war
against patriarchy
against Cameron Mackintosh
for defining who we love
why we love the way we love
while in my head I navigate
through landmines
that lay before the border
to
(loving)
you.

Lani T. Montreal

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

All Access

text and photographs
by Jim Guiao Punzalan

A beautiful man

Transvestite performers are just like you and me, with their own families, homes, loves and dreams

was on my way to my subject's house in Las Piñas when Ms. Aira of "The Amazing Show" called, reminding me that my subject's name is Christopher Dandan, a 26-year-old, 6"1' transvestite.

When we reached the Las Piñas overpass, I texted Christopher that we were already waiting for him. He texted back, saying that he'd fetch me. After a while, a beautiful woman tapped on the window of our vehicle. *"Ako po si* Christopher!"

Christopher strikes a pose in his official photograph

Christopher, who won second runner-up in the Miss International Gay Pageant in Pattaya, Thailand in 2004, took me to their house, and introduced me to his dad. While he was getting ready, I had the chance to talk to his father.

"Christopher and I used to play basketball together when he was still in high school," his father says. "Now, we play the Playstation."

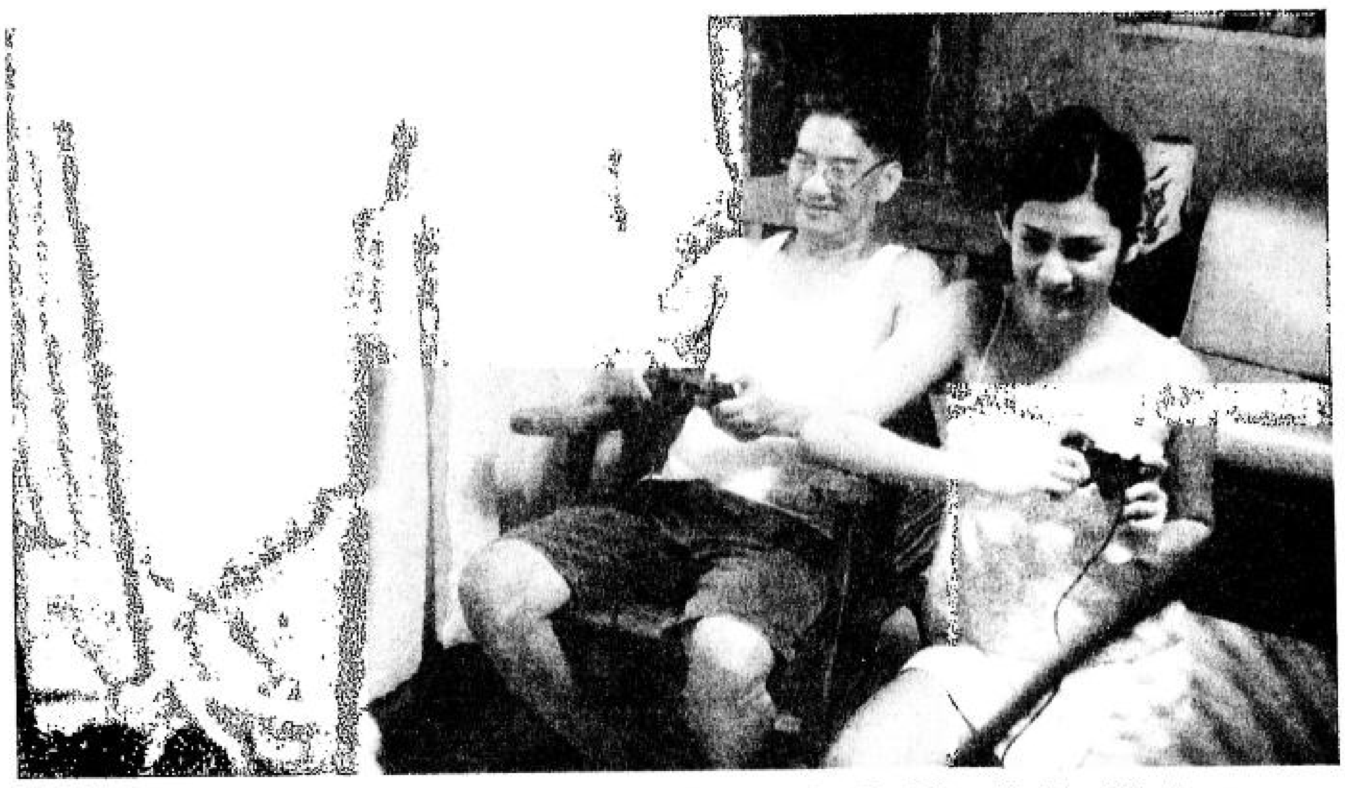
An hour later, at The Amazing Show venue, Christopher was doing his makeup with the other performers. As I was taking photos of Christopher at the Film Center's dressing room, 30 other transvestites shouted my name. I've never seen so many breasts in my life!

The next four hours had me watching them sing and dance in front of a mirror. I started to feel comfortable—even if I was the only straight guy in the room. I was fascinated as I watched the show. They are really different people onstage.

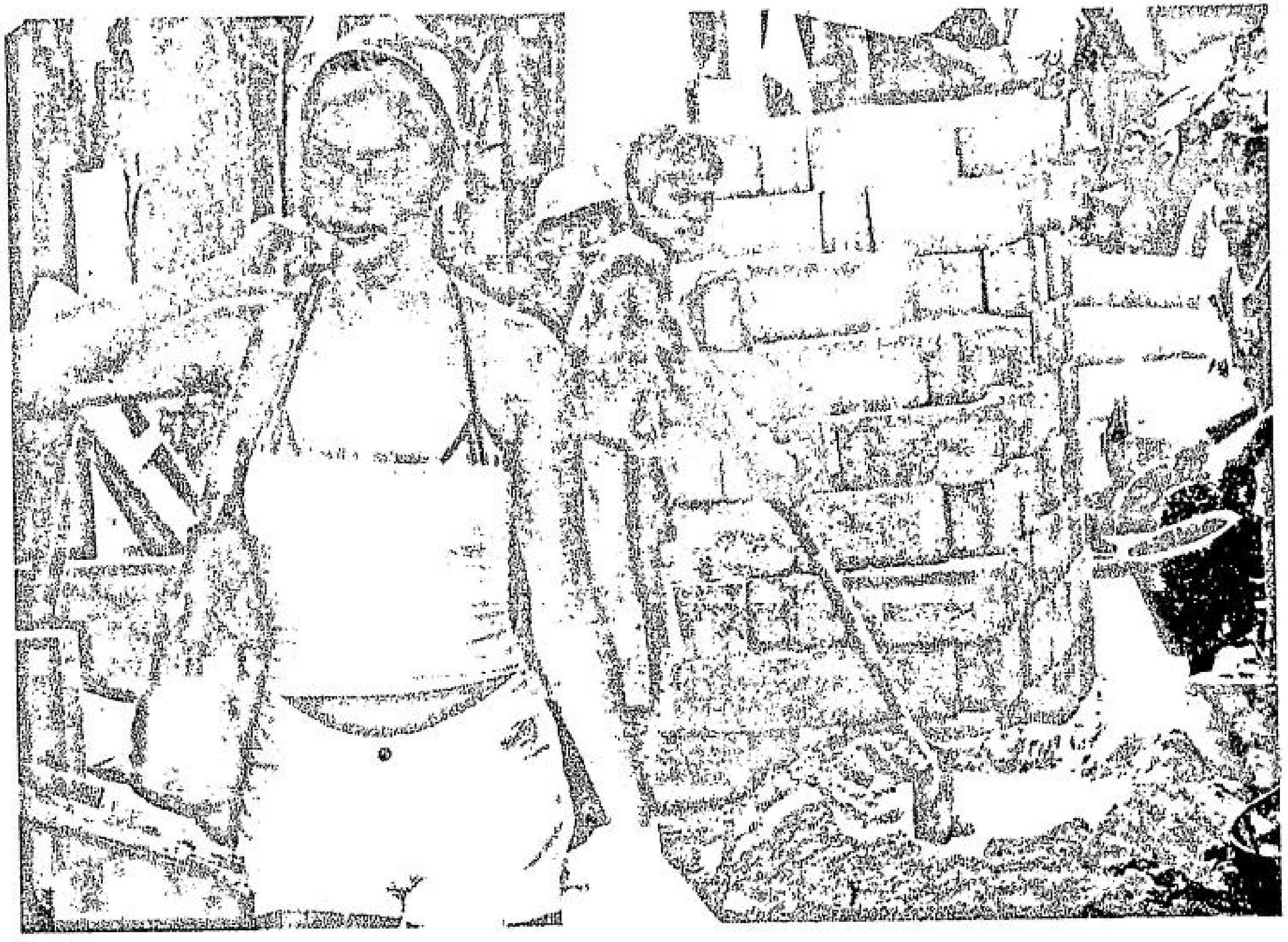
Christopher's boyfriend arrived an hour later to fetch him. I asked if I could take a photo of them together; he declined. *"Kuya* Jim, *may* girlfriend *kasi 'yan eh* (He has a girlfriend)," Christopher says.

After eating at a nearby fast-food place, the three of us got back to Christopher's house past midnight. All in a day's work.

"The Amazing Show" runs from Tuesdays thru Sundays at the Manila Film Center.

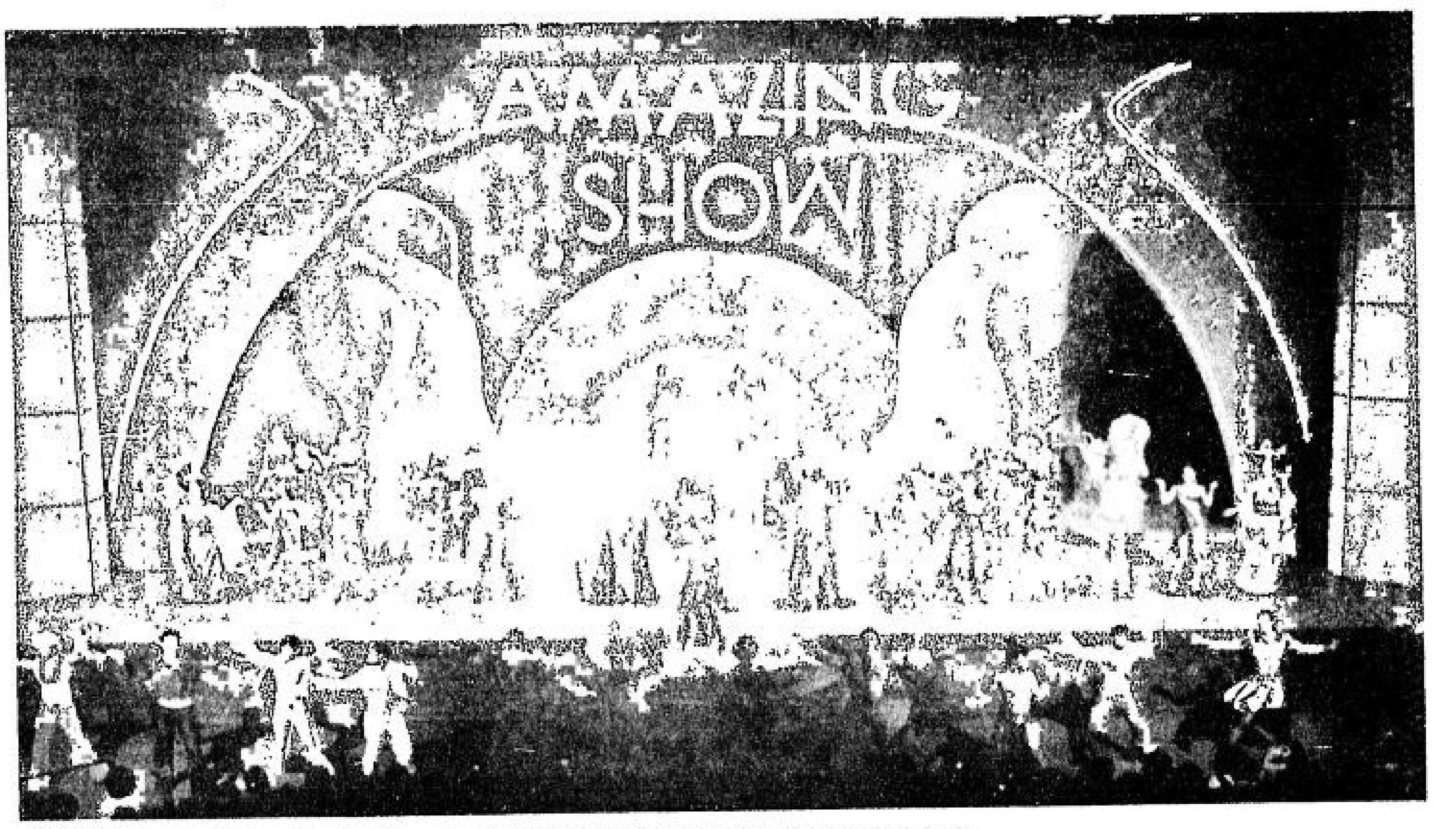


12:50 p.m.: He acts the part of papa's girl as he battles dad Orlando on the PlayStation at their Las Piñas home

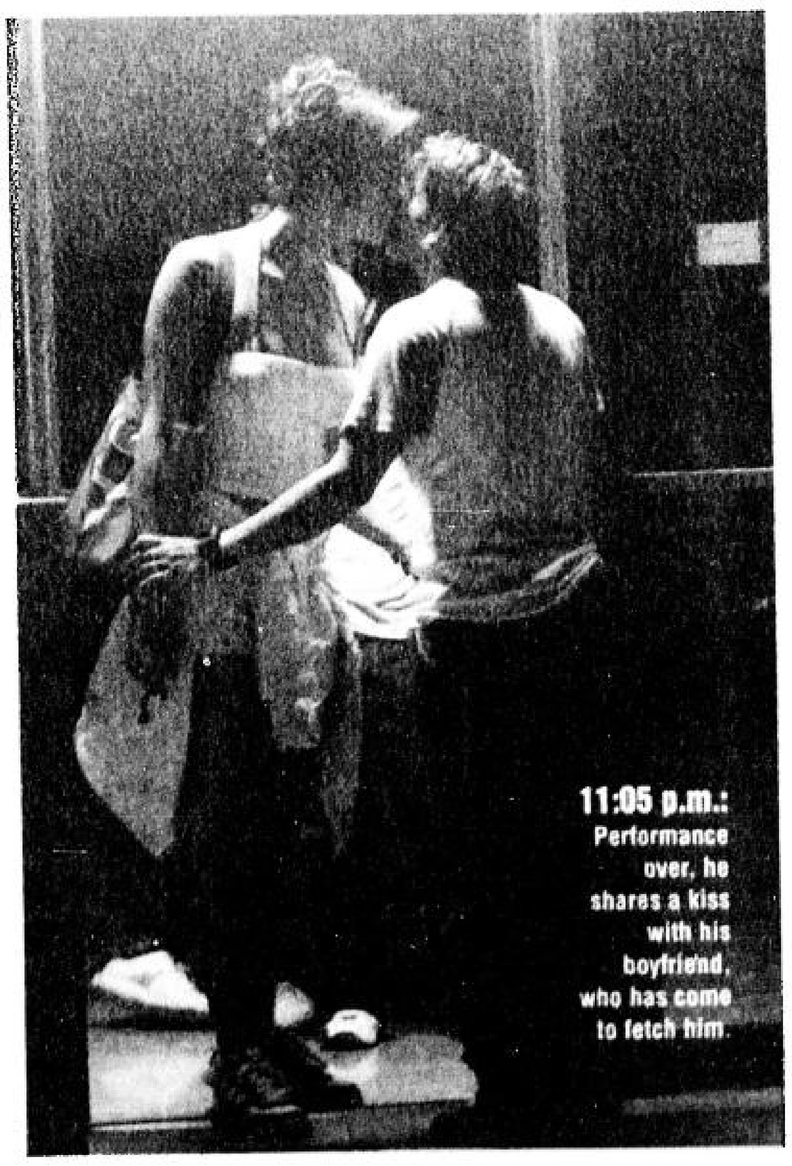


1:27 p.m.: Christopher turns heads as he leaves his house for work

2:35 p.m.: Christopher puts his game face on



7:35 p.m.: The lights shine bright as he joins the cast of "The Amazing Show" onstage



11:05 p.m.: Performance over, he shares a kiss with his boyfriend, who has come to fetch him.

12:03 a.m.: Christopher takes it easy in his room at the end of the day

People of the Faith

by Imelda Morales Aznar
photographs by Wawel Mercado

Priest helps the sick using a 5,000-year-old healing system

REVEREND Fr. Jacob Gnalian has treated about 400 snake bite victims in his native India. "All got well except one, which I did not want to accept because it was already too late."

Fr. Gnalian is no ordinary doctor, but a practitioner of the ancient healing system known as Ayurveda.

The Catholic priest and Ayurvedic doctor has been practicing in the Philippines for the past four years. Through the use of Ayurvedic medicines, diet, exercise, and lifestyle changes, he says that difficult illnesses like diabetes, asthma, arthritis and hypertension can be cured.

Fr. Gnalian was born in Kerala, India in the 1940s. According to him, both his mother and her father had a special talent in medicine. "They have secret herbal medicines, and it's part of Ayurveda but not the classic Ayurveda," Fr. Gnalian explains. "My mother can cure hepatitis in three days, and my grandfather can heal different ailments like wounds and poisoning." They got their healing knowledge from their ancestors, who passed it on to them, just as it was conveyed to them by their ascendants.

Fr. Jacob Gnalian has successfully combined his Catholic faith and Ayurvedic medicine to help people overcome illnesses the natural way

Needed expertise

"I was interested from the very beginning because I saw all that," he explains. He saw, for instance, how his grandfather healed bad cases of burning. Today, Fr. Gnalian's relatives are his patients, too. "My mother is taking my prescribed medicines, and my brother-in-law, who is highly diabetic, has been taking my prescription for four years, and now he is okay."

When Fr. Gnalian goes on one of his yearly trips to India, he makes his diagnoses and prescriptions for family members who need his expertise. His siblings, three boys and three girls, two of whom are now religious sisters, are all based in India.

Gnalian's birthplace of Kerala is a southern state in India considered to be the center of Ayurveda, a 5,000-year-old Vedic healing system.

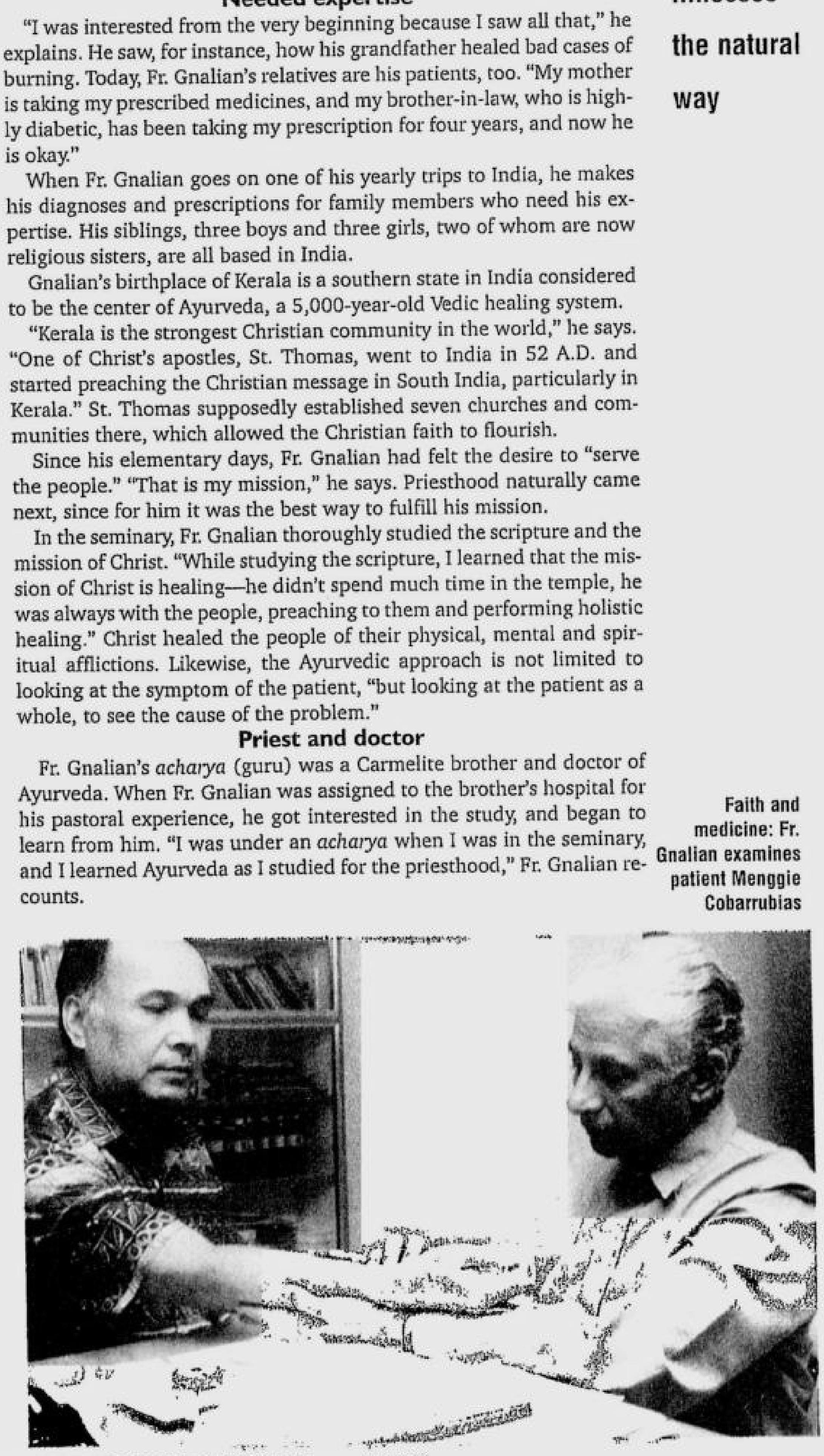
"Kerala is the strongest Christian community in the world," he says. "One of Christ's apostles, St. Thomas, went to India in 52 A.D. and started preaching the Christian message in South India, particularly in Kerala." St. Thomas supposedly established seven churches and communities there, which allowed the Christian faith to flourish.

Since his elementary days, Fr. Gnalian had felt the desire to "serve the people." "That is my mission," he says. Priesthood naturally came next, since for him it was the best way to fulfill his mission.

In the seminary, Fr. Gnalian thoroughly studied the scripture and the mission of Christ. "While studying the scripture, I learned that the mission of Christ is healing—he didn't spend much time in the temple, he was always with the people, preaching to them and performing holistic healing." Christ healed the people of their physical, mental and spiritual afflictions. Likewise, the Ayurvedic approach is not limited to looking at the symptom of the patient, "but looking at the patient as a whole, to see the cause of the problem."

Priest and doctor

Fr. Gnalian's *acharya* (guru) was a Carmelite brother and doctor of Ayurveda. When Fr. Gnalian was assigned to the brother's hospital for his pastoral experience, he got interested in the study, and began to learn from him. "I was under an *acharya* when I was in the seminary, and I learned Ayurveda as I studied for the priesthood," Fr. Gnalian recounts.



Faith and medicine: Fr. Gnalian examines patient Menggie Cobarrubias

When he finished his studies, he began practicing Ayurveda. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1971 by His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Parecatil, Archbishop of Ernaculam, Kerala. As a priest and doctor, he would say Mass at the church, then see his patients afterwards. He did this for about 14 years, until he moved to the Philippines in 1984 for pastoral work and for higher studies in philosophy and theology.

He was requested to come on a mission by the bishop of San Pablo. While in San Pablo, he pursued and completed an MA degree in Oriental religions and cultures at the University of Santo Tomas. He remembers, "I came to San Pablo to do parish work in the diocese of Laguna; but when the mission was over, I felt that it was not complete, so now I do this," he says with a smile. He completed his doctorate thesis in Vedic Philosophy, the root of Ayurveda, also at UST, while serving as the chaplain of various poor communities in Metro Manila.

Driven by his sincere desire to help people, Fr. Gnalian started the Missionaries of the East in the Philippines. He was a member of Missionaries of the East in India. It is a religious organization that aims "to continue Christ's mission in fullness, that is, to heal the people through a holistic healing process." The local organization currently has priests and laymen members.

Unusual clinic hours

In 2001, he established the Sandhi Ayurveda Clinic in Mandaluyong City, with the help of his good friend, the late Rudy dela Rama. Sandhi is a research center and health care facility that "offers cure for diseases for which conventional medicine has no effective remedy." Sandhi aims "to provide a healthcare program for those who cannot afford other forms of medical treatment due to their high cost." Fr. Gnalian spends most of his time in the clinic, seeing patients for "as long as they are here," he says, referring to the absence of usual clinic hours followed by other doctors.

The Sandhi Ayurveda Clinic brochure states that from the time the clinic opened in 2001, "many patients have been treated for numerous diseases—arthritis, asthma, diabetes, psoriasis, eczema and other skin problems, stone in the kidney, dysmenorrhea, eye problems, sinusitis, migraine, hypertension, gastric ulcer and liver disorders; there has been no report of any side effect or complaints."

The Ayurvedic medicines he dispenses are produced by reputed companies in India, patented and registered with the Government of India. Fr. Gnalian's Missionaries of the East obtains them directly from the producers. Patients can't get the medicines anywhere else in the country, they are only available at the Sandhi Ayurveda Clinic. "In India, I just prescribe the medicines and the patients can buy them outside because they are available," he says, "But here, I have to give the medicines myself because they are not available anywhere else."

Getting the required clearances from Department of Health (DOH) and Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) was not an easy process for Fr. Gnalian. "But they have approved my proposal and I was eventually asked by DOH to start Ayurveda here," he says. "I now have a clearance from BFAD to import more than 100 kinds of medicines in bulk, and I have clearance to dispense the medicines." These medicines have been available in the Philippines since 2001.

In 2002, Fr. Gnalian was invited as one of the lecturers in the World Ayurveda Congress in Cochin, India. He was the delegate from the Philippines in the same congress.

Finding harmony

Ayurveda has not become that popular among Filipinos, Fr. Gnalian says, because of the mindset that healing is dependent only upon the medicine and the doctor, with the patient doing very little work.

With Ayurveda, the patient is active in the healing process, and is responsible for his own healing. "When you are sick, it is because of a disorder in the harmony of the body, mind and spirit. The patient needs to cooperate before the healing power will work. You can't be passive because you are important here—you must be active in eating, proper exercise, and in taking your medicine."

This way, the immune system becomes stronger and the person can be healed properly. "The difference between Western medicine and Ayurveda is that Western medicine treats symptoms, while Ayurveda treats the cause."

Healing the body also means healing the spiritual or mental aspect of the person, as well. As with Christianity, faith is an important factor in Ayurveda. "You need faith in God, faith in yourself, and faith in your medicine."

Financial support

Fr. Gnalian has been doing his missionary work practically on his own. "In the beginning, I was told that there will be financial support from the government," he says. But nothing came his way. It's a good thing that the Indian community, and the Indian ambassador in particular, recognizes his endeavors. Individuals whom he had helped in the past have also extended some form of support to the cause, providing, for instance, a venue for the Ayurveda Wellness Weekends he conducts.

Aside from serving as his clinic, the center in Mandaluyong is also a venue for yoga sessions and rejuvenating therapies, and a place of counseling for wellness and healthy food management, and even Ayurvedic treatment for the HIV virus.

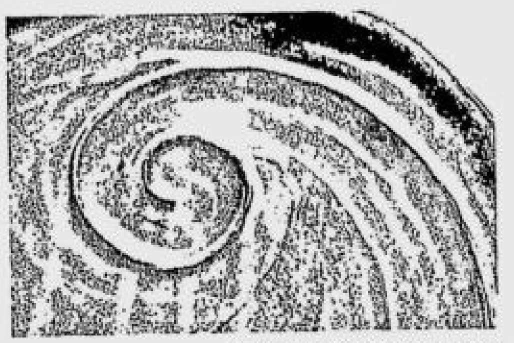
The secret, according to this priest-doctor, is to "go back to nature—that is the meaning of Ayurveda." Fr. Gnalian advises the sick to follow the law of nature. "When you change your way of life, then you will be healthy." ◼

Sandhi Ayurveda Clinic and Research Center is located at 414 Calbayog Street, Mandaluyong City, tel. no. 531-0559

This Week

Art

Yin and Yang, an exhibition of new works in stoneware and porcelain by artist couple Jon and Tessy Pettyjohn will be open for viewing on Feb. 10 to Feb. 23 at Art Space, third level, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. The exhibit features the artists' new works, including functional and sculptural pieces, both wood and gas fired. The exhibit aims to represent the idea of balance and growth in a relationship. For inquiries, call The Pottery Workshop at 812-0766 or contact Corrina and Jon Pettyjohn at 0917-3732099 or 9016-4521159.



Spiral plate stoneware by Jon and Tessy Pettyjohn

The White Main Gallery features a group show titled **Exist 2 Exist** by Pol Alfonso, Bokeng Ancanan, Jun Bernal, Roger Endaya, Boy Gamo, Eric Guazon, Lito Gruela, Hermisanto, Mike Laguisma, Jessie Malaquilla, Lirio Salvador and Crisanta Tamayo. The 12 artists' works present the nuances of their individual artmaking progressing from whence they started as a group. Artworks are done in a large format from painting to synthesis forms.Exhibit runs until Feb. 19. For inquiries, call 826-0574.

Music

Mag:net Café Katipunan February schedule: Feb. 6—Updharma Down and more; Feb. 7—Lee's Night; Feb. 8—Jazz Night: Jazzphil Ensemble; Feb. 9—Silly People's Improv Theater (SPIT); Feb. 10—Live Tilapya (EP Launch) with FMD / Brownout and more; Feb. 11—Campusition Nights: TKM / Pow Martinez-Ria Munoz and more; Feb .13—Grand Opening: Drip / Nyko Maca / Pow Martinez-Ria Munoz; Feb. 14—Tue Lee's Night; Feb.15—Jazz Night: Anya; Feb. 16—Silly People's Improv Theater (SPIT); Feb. 17—Ria Osorio; Feb. 18—Campusition Nights: Wake up your seatmate / Sausage Party/Pleasure Box/Pow Matinez-Ria Munoz; Feb. 20—Jeff and the Beanstalk / Naima; Feb.21—Lee's Night; Feb. 22—Jazz Night: Javadelic with Bo Razon; Feb. 23—Silly People's Improv Theater (SPIT); Feb.24—Cynthia Alexander; Feb. 25—Campusition Nights: Hymn of Siren/Hidden Nikki/Panarama Concoction/Zoe Dulay/Pow Martinez-Ria Munoz; Feb. 27—Special Gig: Singing Painters; and Feb. 28—Lee's Night. For private parties, call Raymar at 0915-9370816, 435-2631 or 929-3191.

Love Concerts. Star Group of Malls presents Valentine concerts, which will be staged simultaneously on Feb. 14 featuring Bamboo; Pupil and Kitchie Nadal; and Basil Valdes and Agot Isidro at Starmall Edsa Cinema 3. For inquiries and ticket reservations, call 718-1886.

Onstage

Gabriela: An Oratorio. A play written by Joi Barrios will be staged on Feb. 8 to 26 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2nd floor, Palma Hall, UP Diliman Quezon City. The production combines poetry and prose bringing in back the story of Gabriela Silang after the death of her husband Diego. The play is directed by Tony Mabesa and musical arrangement is by Joy Marfil. Songs in the play will be performed by the UP Vocal Ensemble under Dr, Raul Navarro. For inquiries and ticket reservations, call the Dulaang UP office at 926-1349 or 981-8500 locals 2449 or 2451. You may also contact Cinderella Mayo at 0921-8028083.

Actor's Actor Inc. and Silang Productions' third run of the Broadway musical **"Once On This Island,"** will have its final weekend today at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza in Makati. The cast is headed by Bituin Escalante, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Jett Pangan and Michael Williams, Raki Vega and Gian Magdangal. For ticket inquiries, call Ticketworld at 891-9999 or Silang Communications at 819-0458.

Pelikula@titusbrandsma presents films that delves into the complexities of love and relationships. Starting at 1 p.m. on Feb. 18 at 24 Acacia St. Bgy. Mariana, New Manila, QC. The monthly film dialogue unreels with the following lineup: "Picture Bride" by Kayo Hatta, "*Le Laboratoire de L'Angoisse*" a short film by Patrice Leco, "Thomas in Love " by Pierre-Paul Renders and one surprise film. Admission is free. Pelikula@titusbrandsma is located at Titus Brandsma Center, 24 Acacia St., Bgy. Mariana, New Manila, Quezon City. For inquiries, visit www.pelikula-titusbrandsma.ph, or call Jofti at 726-6054, Maxie at 751-1169 or Eric at 364-7955.

Food

Outback Restaurant brings back the beefed up Porterhouse Steak. Outback's Porterhouse steaks are served with fresh salad classic side dish. Outback outlets are located at Glorietta 4, Makati; Libis, QC and Alabang Town Center.

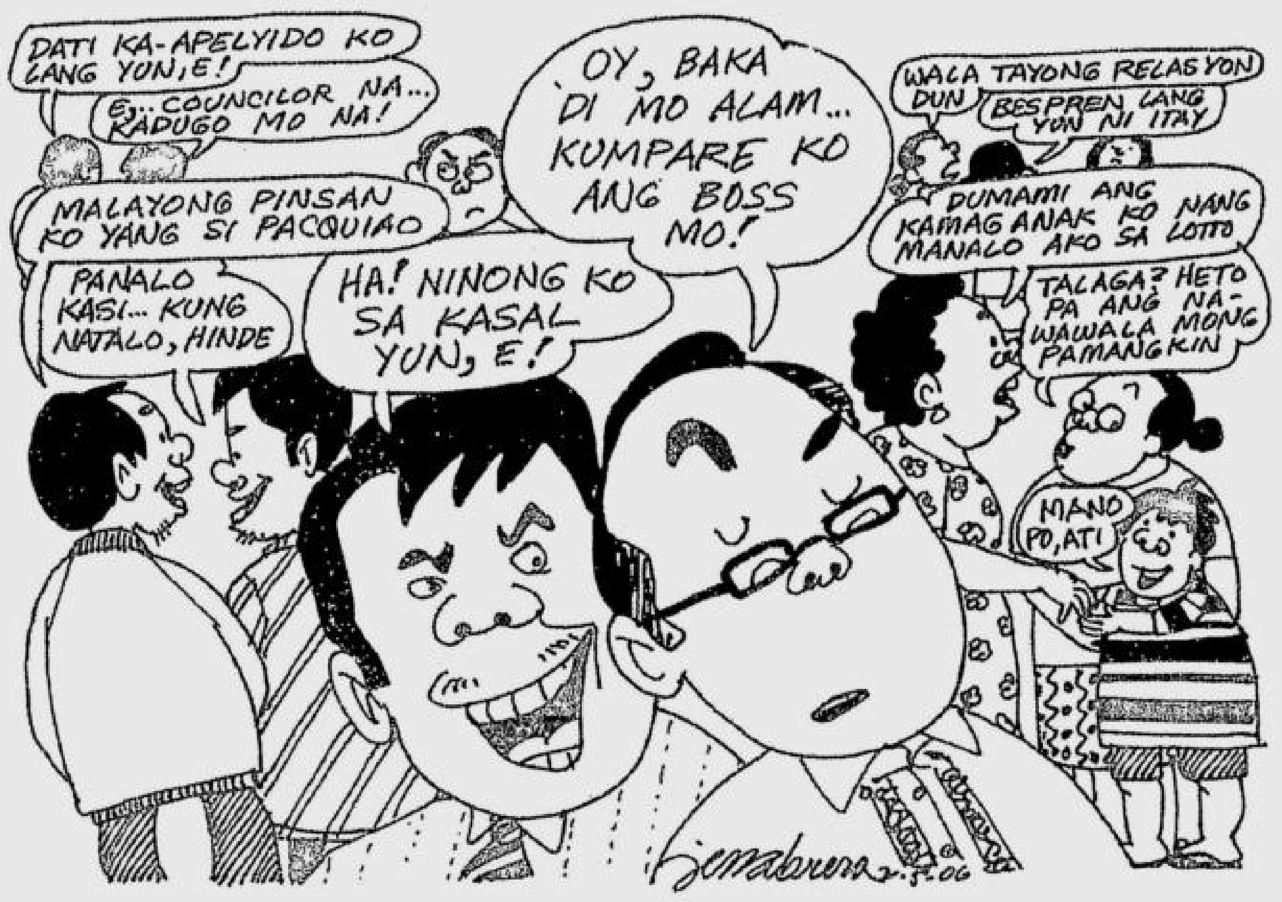
The Prince Albert Rotisserie Jeepney Deli Shop offers **Valentine cakes, chocolates and pastries** from Feb. 10 to Feb. 15. It also offers a five-course set menu with a flute of Moet et Chandon Champagne from Feb. 13 to Feb. 15. For inquiries, call 815-9711.

The cast of "Gabriela: An Oratorio," onstage at UP's Guerrero Theater

Indulge in a decadent treat by enjoying the popular tiramisu of **The Solomon Guest House**. Whimsically served in a large goblet, this treat is sure to pleasure anyone's sweet tooth. Tucked into a quiet corner of Malate, The Solomon Guest House is managed completely by practicum students of School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde. It offers delicious lunch meals such as beef teppanyaki and merienda treats at very affordable prices. The Solomon Guest House is open from Mondays to Fridays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is located at 1025-C Ayala St. (perpendicular to Arellano Ave.), Malate, Manila near CSB Hotel International Conference Center. For functions and reservations, call 536-6416.

Pinoy Nga!

KAMAGANAK INC.

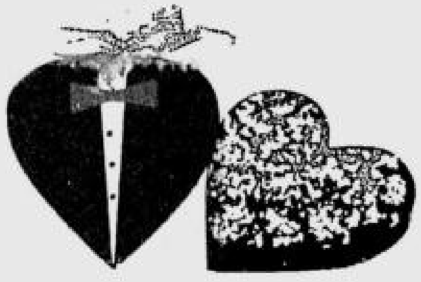


DATI KA-APELYIDO KO LANG YUN, E!
E... COUNCILOR NA... KADUGO MO NA!
MALAYONG PINSAN KO YANG SI PACQUIAO
PANALO KASI... KUNG NATALO, HINDE
HA! NINONG KO SA KASAL YUN, E!
OY, BAKA DI MO ALAM... KUMPARE KO ANG BOSS MO!
WALA TAYONG RELASYON DUN
BESPREN LANG YUN NI ITAY
DUMAMI ANG KAMAG ANAK KO NANG MANALO AKO SA LOTTO
TALAGA? HETO PA ANG NAWAWALA MONG PAMANGKIN
MANO PO, ATI
Jemabrera 2-5-06

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Atbp

This Valentine, **Ihealth Nlite** offers a unique line of healthy gift packs filled with products especially designed for relaxation and stress relief, together with sinfully delicious treats without the damaging effects of fat and sugar. The packages contain a mix of healthy treats such as sugar-free chocolate bars, chocolate chip cookies, oatmeal raisin cookies and stress-relief aids such as aromatherapy eye pillows, massage oils and scented candles. All packages can be pre-customized and redesigned to fit your budget. Iheath Nlite is located at 85 A West Capitol Drive, Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig. For inquiries, call 636-6805 or visit www. healthcircle.com.



Ihealth Nlite Valentine gift packages

The Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association of the Philippines invites all hairdressers and salon owners to join its **Silver Jubilee: Open Hairstyling and Makeup Competition** on Feb. 20, 8 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Philippine Trade Training Center. Discounted beauty and hair products will also be on sale during the event. For inquiries, contact Tessie Atienza at 731-4371 or 742-8188. You can also look for Nick Diaz or Emmie Mole at 895-1231 or 253-8521.

The Lopez Memorial Museum, in cooperation with the Museum Foundation of the Philippines, presents the second of the series Stories about Preserving Cultural Heritage on Feb. 1, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The talk will be focused on public art, particularly public sculptures. Prof Ma. Victoria T. Herrera will discuss issues that relate to the production and care of public art in the talk entitled **Perspective on Sculptures in Public Spaces**. The Lopez Memorial Museum is located at the ground floor of the Benpres Building, Exchange Road corner Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Museum days and hours are Mondays thru Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. except holidays. For more information, call 631-2417 or 404-2685. You can also e-mail pezseum@skyinet.net or info@museumfoundationphils.com.

The UP Film Institute will be having its **Film Production Management Workshop** scheduled for Feb. 15 to Feb. 17 and Feb. 22 to Feb. 24. The workshop presents an overview of the practices and procedures relating to the logistical and business side of film and video production. Workshop directors for the six-day workshop will be Mads Adrias, executive producer of Furball Productions and Amor Olaguer, senior lecturer UP Film Institute. This year's workshop will have the breakthrough indie film "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" as its case study. For inquiries, e-mail us at bjorki71@yahoo.com or call 925-0286. 926-3640. Limited slots only.

Join **Live Life to the Full**, a one-day retreat on Feb. 18 at the San Carlos Seminary, Lay Formation Center, Edsa-Guadalupe, Makati City. The retreat aims to help people find greater purpose and personal direction in life. For inquiries and registration, call 637-4701 to 637-4701 or text 9017-7052224. You may also visit www.jeshuitministries.net.

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Sunday, February 5, 2006

Sayaw Drama Iba
Shall We Dance?
The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC
Iba Tayo!

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ABC5	Ringside TV PBA Search For A Star In A Million Shall We Dance? Aawitan Kita
ABS-CBN2	A.S.A.P Fanatics Pinoy Big Brother Buzz The Buzz Goin Bulilit Rated K TV Patrol World Sunday Family Cinema
AXN	Gotfight Samsung Sports World Maximum Exposure (Season I) Ultimate Guinness World Records Totally Outrageous CSI Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5) CSI NY (Season I) CSI Miami
Cartoon Network	X-Men Evolution Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Xiaolin Showdown Tom & Jerry Show Codename Kids Next Door Teen Titans Samurai Jack The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee Powerpuff Girls Dexter's Laboratory Crush Gear Nitro Power Rangers Ninja Storm Superman The Animated Series Aqua Teen Hunger Force Harvey Birdman
Cinema One	Volta Trip Six Sigaw
Cinemax	Edge Of Madness The Naked Gun From The Files Of Police Squad! Japanese Story (7:15 PM) Tremors 4 The Legend Begins Lara Croft Tomb Raider The Cradle Of Life
CNN	International Correspondents World News The Daily Show With Jon Stewart World News Design 360 World News World Sport Larry King Live World News Talk Asia World News MainSail World News World Sport Global Challenges Business Traveller Talk Asia The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Disney Channel	Wonderful World Of Disney Wonderful World Of Disney
ESPN	UCA College Cheer Dance Div I & II Track & Field Athletics IAAF Grand Prix II Boxing Series Friday Night Fights Sportscenter Asia Major League Baseball Division Series
ETC	Veronica Mars American Dreams 2 Saturday Night Live One Tree Hill 2 Friends 10 The Insider Weekend Queer Eye For The Straight Guy Project Runway Nip/Tuck (Back-2-Back Episodes)
EWTN	Pilgrimages To The Shrines Of Eastern Europe Angelus (3:15 PM) The Donut Man Adventures In Odyssey Deep Conversation Deep Prayer Rosary With Mother Angelica Octavia Dies Rome Reports EWTN Bookmark EWTN Global Showcase Onward Pilgrims Mirror Of The Soul Sunday Mass (SAP) Live Life Is Worth Living The Abundant Life
Fox News	Beltway Boys Fox News Watch Fox Report Saturday Heartland With John Kasich Big Story Weekend Edition Beltway Boys Fox News Watch Fox & Friends Sunday Fox News Live
GMA7	Gigsters Love To Love S-Files Mahiwagang Baul Startruck3 Mel & Joey All Star K Daddy Di Do Du Sunday Night Box Office
Hallmark Channel	The Nanny The Nanny Hercules (3:50 PM) Hercules (6:20 PM) Love's Enduring Promise McBride Murder Past Midnight Dug Gone Love (10:35 PM)
HBO	Paycheck Peter Pan Hard Target The Chronicles Of Riddick Private Benjamin
IBC13	EZ Shop EZ Shop Home Shopping Network Home Shopping Network Legacy Of Hero TBA Iyo Ang Katarungan EL SHADDAI
JackTV	Arrested Development Arrested Development Arrested Development Family Guy Dr Katz Afterburn Smackdown Jack In The Box Trigger Happy TV Dr Katz Comedy Central Presents Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design Ground Rules Outer Spaces Your Private Island [illegible] Back To Basics Barefoot Contessa Everyday Italian Ciao America With Mario Food Network Special E! Entertainment Special Clean House
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits Laguna Beach MTV Cribs MTV Hits Viva La Bam Pimp My Ride Get Hitched MTV Screen The 70's House Spring Break MTV Presents Whatever Things MTV Hits Essential VH1
MYX	Pinoy MYX Countdown Take 5 MYX Bandarito MYX News Star MYX MYXILOG Pop MYX MYX Presents MYX Hit Chart MYX Backtrax OPM MYX
National Geographic	No Borders Crittergam Wildtech Adventures Monkey Business Amazing Moments Taiwan To The World Megastructures Microkillers Week No Borders
NBN	Paco Park Presents Kamao Sa Kamao Tinig ng Bayan (Live) Inter-Aksyon Sa Bayan Batto Royale The Sports List TBA Business & Leisure Unlimited Diving
Nickelodeon	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide Unfabulous Naturally Sadie Romeo Drake & Josh Catscratch SpongeBob SquarePants The Fairly Odd Parents Dark Oracle Zoey 101 Unfabulous Girls In Love Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide Four Eyes The Wild Thornberrys The Brothers Garcia
PBO	Alabang Girls Sagad Hanggang Buto Pusong Mamon Awesome Fight Night 3
Qtv	Baywalk Ginang Fashionista Joan Of Arcadia Ang Pinaka Pop Star Kids May Trabaho Ka Sunday Super Sine MINT (Music Interactive)
RPN9	Golf Power Auto Extreme Fistorama JAG JAG Navy NCIS Without A Trace NBA On RPN Sure Hits The Working President
IBN21	Buhay Pinoy Shepherds Voice New Life Oras Ng Himala Oras ng Katotohanan Gabay At Aksyon
Solar Sports	Copenhagen Masters Men's Singles-Finals GWS 05-2006 The Battle (Top Rank) Pacquiao vs Morales, Jaca vs Hernandez NBA Jam NBA Game Grizzlies @ Bucks Boxing Reyes vs. Castillo
Sports Plus	ACC Basketball Louisville @ Miami Slipstream Ray Ban Celebrity Poker Challenge GP Masters 2005 Kyalami Raceworld This Is The PGA Tour FBR Open Day3
Star Movies	Nine Lives (3:28 PM) There's Something About Mary The One Opening Night King Arthur Marked For Death (11:05PM)
Star World	Man Vs Beast/ Scrubs (Series 2) North Shore Business Week Asia Travel Asia Smallville Malcolm In The Middle (Series 5) The Kumars At No 42 Little Britain (Series 3) Koffee With Karan Friends The Simpsons Malcolm In The Middle (Series 5)
Studio23	Ngiiig Y Speak Joey Living With Fran Will & Grace F [illegible] Tour (10:16PM) Chefs On The Go (10:45PM) Buffy The Vampire Slayer

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Twists of Fate

by Aquiles Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

Fighting mama: Dionisia, rightmost, visits GMA with Manny's father Rosalio Pacquiao, Manny's wife Jinkee and Manny

PDI FILE

The champion's mother refused to let fate knock her out

Being thrice abandoned by the men she loved and living life on the ropes didn't stop Dionisia Pacquiao from doing right by her children

HE has the fighting heart of a true champion, a trait that her son, boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao, apparently inherited. But while her son had to contend with setbacks in the boxing ring, Dionisia Dapigran Pacquiao has also proven herself a hardy survivor of life's cruel blows.

Thrice abandoned by the men she loved—first by her father, then by her first and second husbands—she had to support six children by herself. But Dionisia, 56, says she has no regrets. Her patience, tenacity and faith were well-rewarded in the end. As the mother of the wealthiest and most accomplished Filipino boxer, what more could she ask?

They were still young when her father walked out of their life, recounts Dionisia. Her mother, Cristina Mejia Dapigran, had to single-handedly provide for the needs of her nine children. The third in the brood, Dionisia says that it was her mother who instilled in her the values of hard work, fortitude and faith in God, qualities which became handy when she herself became a single parent.

She was pregnant with her second child when her first husband, Alfonso Silvestre, left her for another woman, she reveals. To support their two children, Liza, now 36, and Domingo, now 34, she made doughnuts and native delicacies and sold them in the neighborhood. They stayed with her mother in Barangay Tango, Glan, Sarangani Province.

For four years, Dionisia waited for her first husband to come home. Finally, she decided to marry again. She wanted not just someone to share life with, but to have more children. "If I had not remarried, there would have been no Manny Pacquiao today," she says in jest.

Greener pastures

In 1975, she met Rosalio Pacquiao, with whom she had four children—Isidra, Manny, Bobby and Rogelio. In search of greener pastures, the family moved from Sarangani Province to Labangal village in Gen. Santos City.

Rosalio worked as laborer at the city public market while she stayed home taking care of their children, recounts Dionisia. Their income was hardly enough to meet their needs, she adds, so her husband decided to go to Tampakan town in South Cotabato to look for other ways to earn a living. He tried farming, staying for days in Tampakan to work the fields. Soon, he was staying away for longer periods. He must be very busy, his wife had thought, until she learned that her husband was living with another woman. Dionisia was shocked, and initially didn't want to let him go. They had shared a common bed for almost two decades, after all. But for the sake of their children, she willed herself to move on. She started baking native delicacies again and worked in a factory.

PDI FILE

Posing with her son's many awards in GenSan

By this time, Manny was already an amateur boxer who would regularly send money from Manila, Dionisia recalls. His two younger siblings, Bobby, now also a professional boxer, and Rogelio, the youngest, sold cellophane bags at the public market to help out.

Sustained by faith

Aside from her children, prayers provided her strong support, says Dionisia. She drew strength and courage from constant praying, she adds, a reason why all her children, especially Manny, grew up devout Catholics who pray before retiring to bed and upon waking up. At a time when they had almost nothing, it was their faith that sustained them, she says.

In contrast, they seem to have everything these days. After her son became a world boxing champion, life changed dramatically for Dionisia and her children. She now lives in a two-bedroom house just walking a distance away from Manny's plush residence. He had given her not just a house and lot, but also monthly support and enough cash for her ulcer and heart medication. No longer does she have to peddle native cakes in the neighborhood. These days, Dionisia stays home and spends most of her time enjoying the videoke, watching movies and reliving the glory of her son's wins on DVD.

The Filipino ring icon has also given a house and lot to his sisters Liza and Isidra, and bought a tricycle for his elder brother Domingo. It was Manny who supported the schooling of his youngest brother Rogelio, who is now working abroad.

Of course, if it were up to her, Dionisia would not want Manny to become a boxer. She'd rather he become a priest. Which was why her son kept his training secret when he was just starting. He knew it would break his mother's heart just thinking how he could get hurt in the ring.

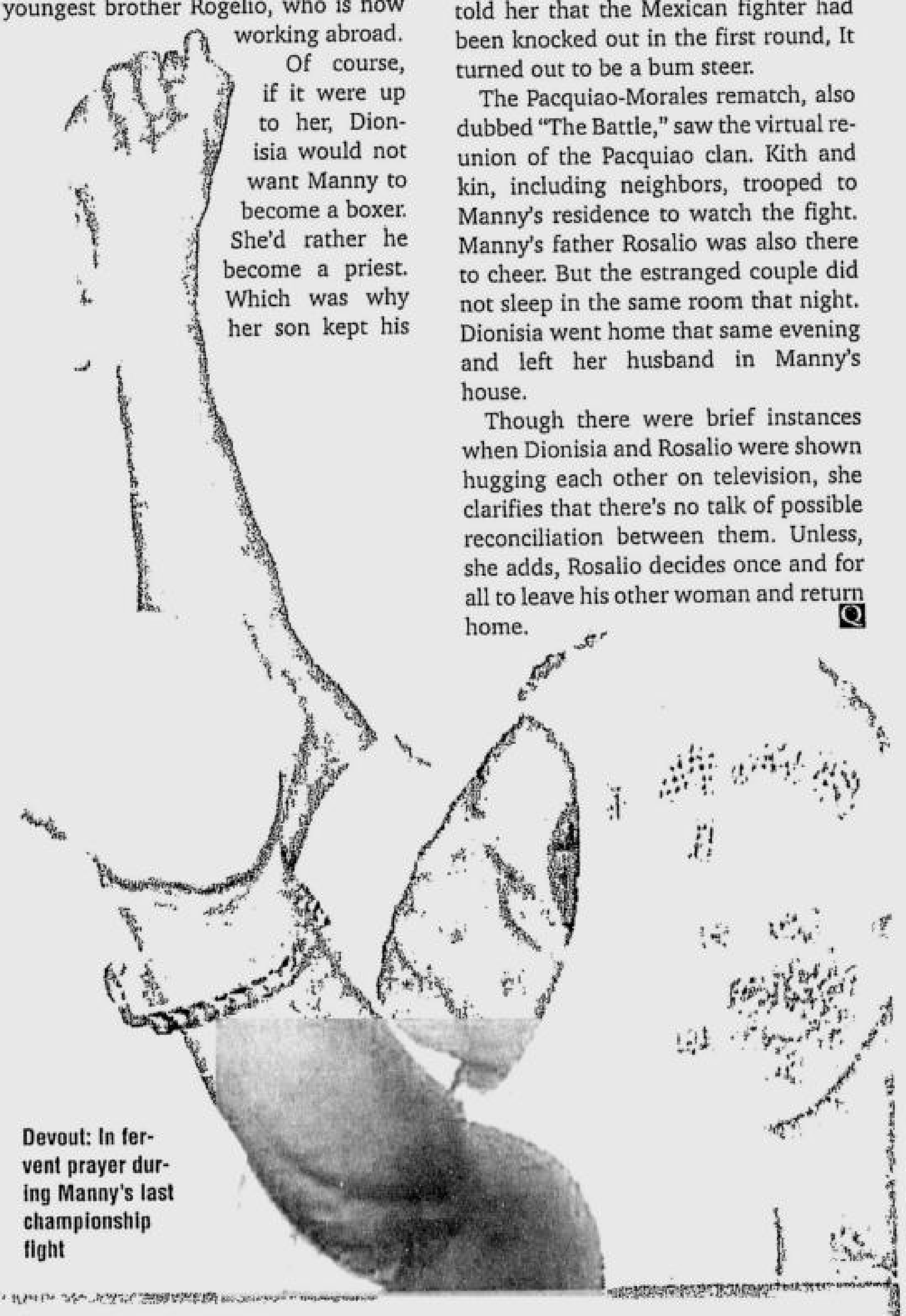
Anxious mother

Dionisia understands how powerless parental desires can be, but there's nothing she can do about it now. Manny's passion has always been boxing. All she can do is give him moral support and pray for his son's safety every time he climbs the ring. She can't even watch his fights live. All that anxiety and excitement is bad for her heart. So while people around the world grip the edge of their seats as they watch her son fight, Dionisia is in her room, kneeling before the altar and imploring God's help to protect her son from harm.

During last Sunday's rematch between Manny and Mexican boxing legend Erik Morales, this anxious mother collapsed after a naughty Pacquiao fan told her that the Mexican fighter had been knocked out in the first round, It turned out to be a bum steer.

The Pacquiao-Morales rematch, also dubbed "The Battle," saw the virtual reunion of the Pacquiao clan. Kith and kin, including neighbors, trooped to Manny's residence to watch the fight. Manny's father Rosalio was also there to cheer. But the estranged couple did not sleep in the same room that night. Dionisia went home that same evening and left her husband in Manny's house.

Though there were brief instances when Dionisia and Rosalio were shown hugging each other on television, she clarifies that there's no talk of possible reconciliation between them. Unless, she adds, Rosalio decides once and for all to leave his other woman and return home. ◆



Devout: In fervent prayer during Manny's last championship fight